Fairmont State University

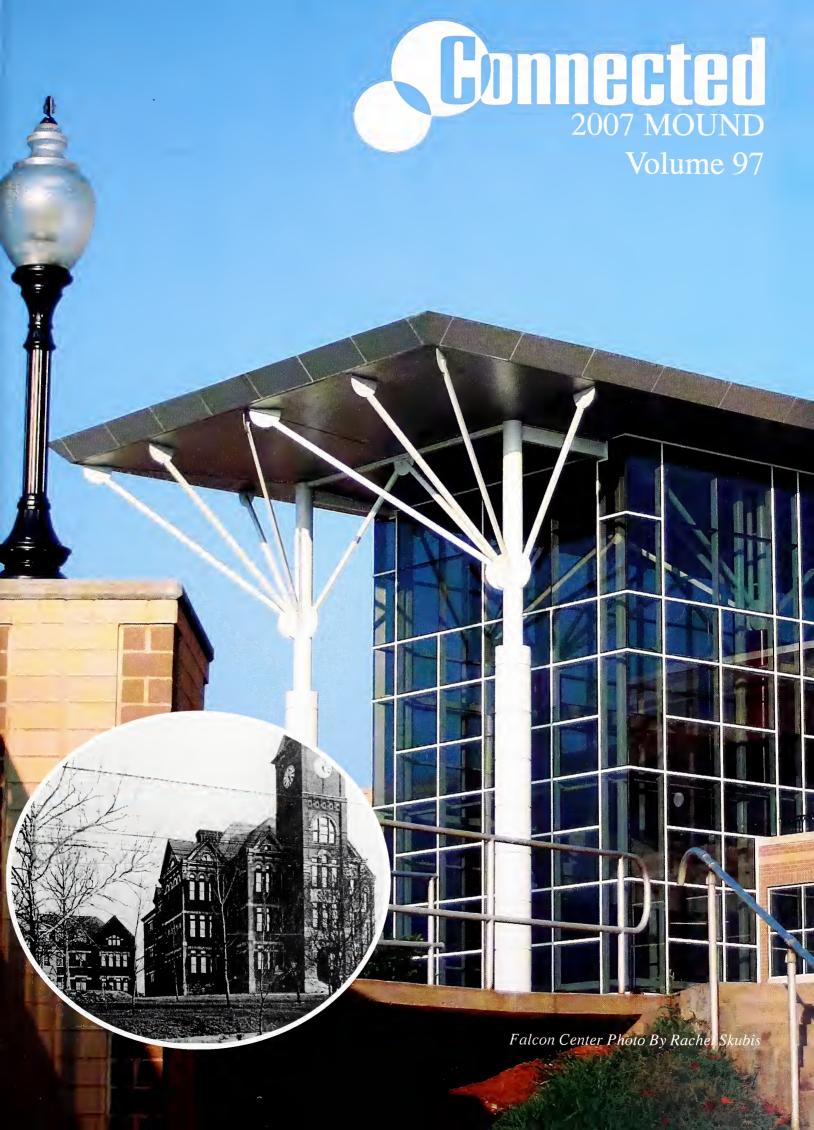
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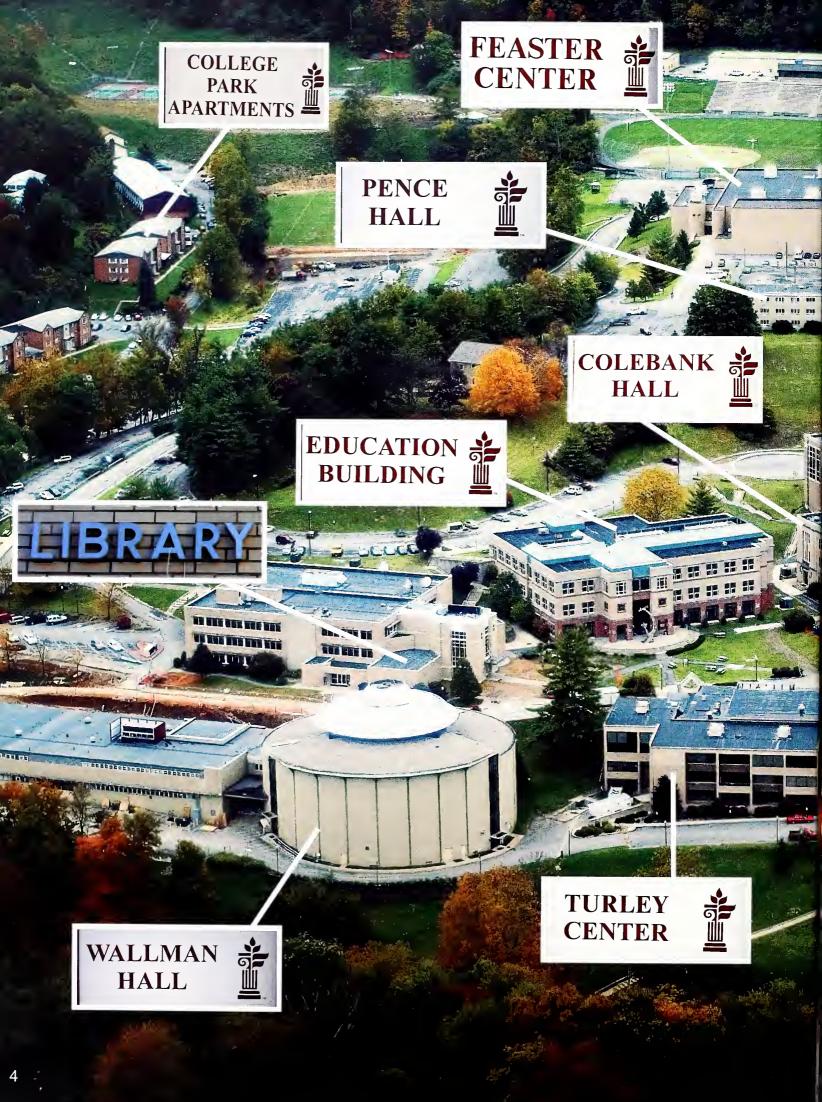
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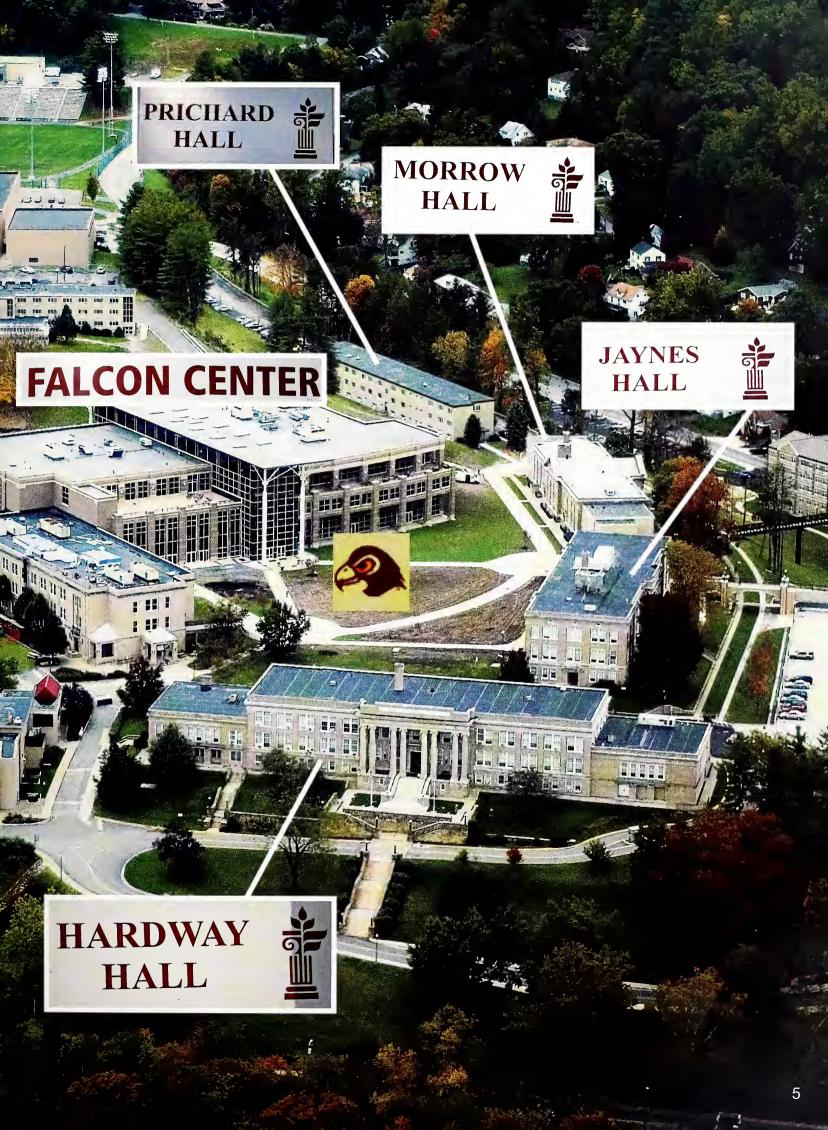














FALCON FUSION

By: Rachel Skubis

Sections of life overlap and intermingle. There are many relationships that exist in today's world — some that we have and are not even aware of. At times, we may mislead ourselves with the belief that we can separate ourselves in utter privacy, isolation, and oneness, but even this internal unity is affected by external stimuli—the experiences that shape the people we are. Life experiences include those that take place at Fairmont State University, where intimate and life-changing intersections are created through the decisions we make, the words we communicate, and the people we meet.

Relationships exist in our academic,

social, and personal lives. Adding

technology into the mix, it is

somewhere on the communication chain. College life is specifically

affected by technology in online learning,

social networking sites, email, and the handy cell continued on page 8

Many students finish financial aid applications and awards in the Turley Center Ballroom during the first couple weeks of the fall semester. Photo By Rachel Skubis



phone. Academic departments join faculty and students with common interests and goals, and student organizations and sports' teams provide additional opportunities for students to become active on the campus community and form friendships. To say anything with the highest amount of honesty--we are connected.

Entering Fairmont State University as eighteen-year-old freshmen, most students distance themselves from connections to home and begin a life anew in Prichard, Pence, Morrow Hall, or Bryant Place. Here, new associations are made as they get to know their roommates and neighbors. There are students who come to Fairmont State from other countries, forming bonds across cultures and learning a new sense of home as well as a new way of life. Along with these young adults, there are also nontraditional students rejoining the educational environment to further their careers, make new ones, or refurbish their minds and current lives.

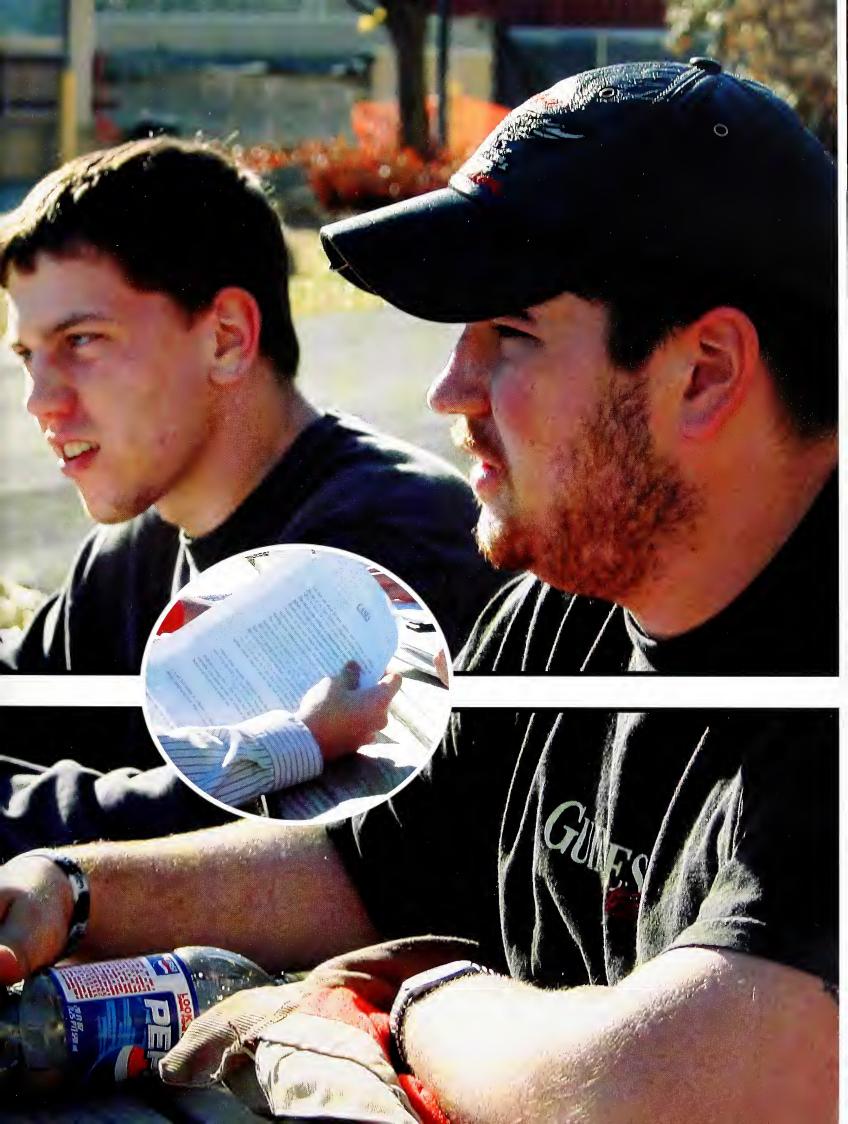
College is a transitional and life-changing period, and this time should not be taken for granted. This time has much to offer. It takes only a quick and misguided slip to fall into one section of life and miss out on so many others, but, here for hope: We can pull ourselves out and eliminate our losses. Life does not end on commencement day, and neither does our growth as individuals. In the future, Fairmont State will become one of the many ties that establishes our character and career, and how fortunate we are to soar from it's nest.



A student heads to the Falcon Center, a great location to socialize and clear one's mind on campus.

Photo By Rachel Skubis

Freshman Adam Hamilton and Junior Matt Ruckle sit outside on the Quad during finals week of the fall semester. Photo By Rachel Skubis



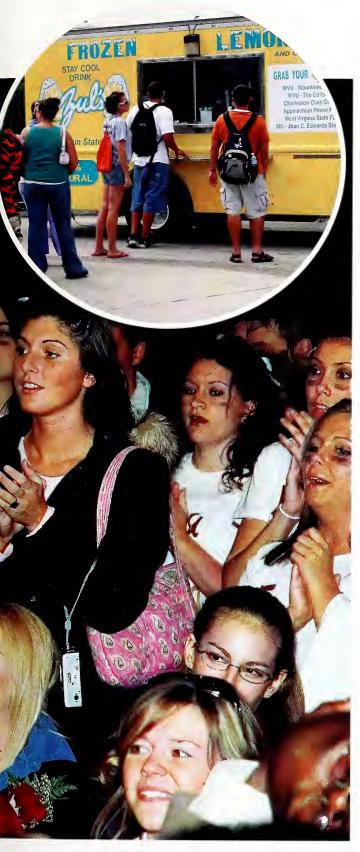
STUDENTLIFE

By: Rachel Skubis



Students wait in line to get a frozen lemonade

— a campus tradition. Photo By Rachel Skubis



Many sororities, fraternities, and other members of the student body join in enthusiasm for the upcoming homecoming game during the pep rally in the Falcon Center. Photo By Kevin Funk

During the first couple months of the fall semester, many activities helped students to get back into the swing of things. On August 29th, Scott Simons, a former pianist and vocalist for "The Argument," performed in the Falcon Center during lunchtime. Free refreshments and frozen lemonades were also available outside the Falcon Center along with a semester-kick-off by the Falcon cheerleaders and Fairmont State band.

In the month of September, aside from homework, projects, and next month's mid-term nerves, students enjoyed a Latin Dance Party with instructed dance moves. The following week, Ricardo Lemvo and Makina Loca performed in concert in Colebank Gym. The music was a mix between Cuban jams and African pop. Fairmont State also held a Family Weekend, which featured a chili cookoff and other family fun. Fall sports also occupied many athletes' calendars.

October events included Homecoming Week, Alcohol, Substance Abuse and Sexuality Awareness Week, and many skill-sets and courses offered by Pierpont Community & Technical College of FSU Community Education program. The FSU Intercollegiate Debate Team also won on the affirmative and negative sides of the Lincoln Douglas policy debate.

A Fall Falcon Triathlon was held during the month of November in the Falcon Center. November was also a busy month for the Fine Arts Department, including the Masquers and Town & Gown theatre groups' production of "Oliver," the Wind Ensemble and Stage Band performance, and a holiday concert from the Collegiate Singers. The West Virginia Folklife Center at FSU was designated a new home and namethe Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center, and Pierpont Community and Technical College won the state culinary arts competition. December was the beginning of Winter Sports, the end of the fall semester, and a warm rather than a chilly holiday for a much needed break for students.

Additional information concerning Student Life can be found on "Fairmont State Highlights" on the Fairmont State website at http://www.fairmontstate.edu/news/news_archive.asp.

Open to the student body, with a highlight on sororities, fraternities, and other campus organizations, Homecoming Week took place on October 9-13. From Main Street of the Falcon Center to other designated locations of the week, familiar sounds of the movie Grease and other rock n' roll legends were heard, sung, and enjoyed, as the 2006 Fairmont State Homecoming was "rockin' on the hilltop."

Women swayed in their poodle skirts, and men sported tight, faded denim with white tee-shirts for a variety of events. Many students joined friends for a night of free popcorn, root beer floats, punch, and other snacks during a showing of Grease in Colebank Gym. This night also featured a Look-A-Like Contest, presentation of the Homecoming Court, and free t-shirts, which created quite an eager crowd to get their hands on the memorabilia.

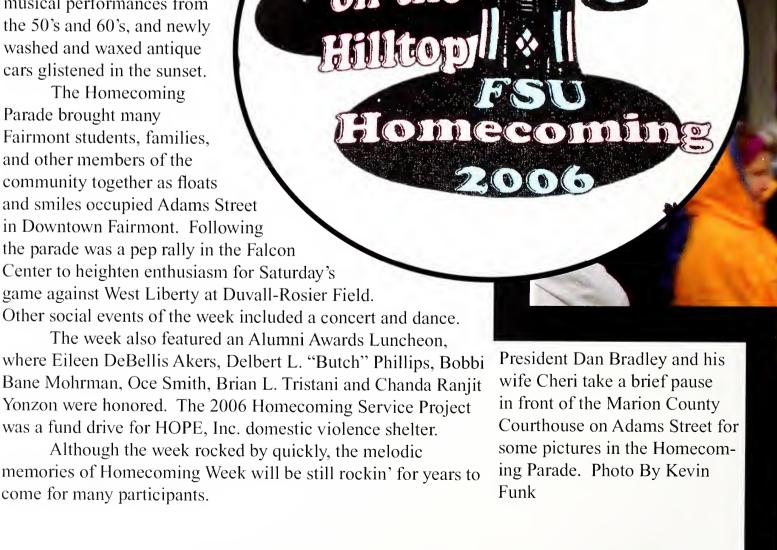
A Lip-Sync Contest and Car Show were held on the sixth level of the parking garage the next day. The contest featured campus groups as they danced and did their best imitations to musical performances from the 50's and 60's, and newly washed and waxed antique

cars glistened in the sunset. The Homecoming Parade brought many Fairmont students, families. and other members of the community together as floats and smiles occupied Adams Street in Downtown Fairmont. Following the parade was a pep rally in the Falcon Center to heighten enthusiasm for Saturday's

Other social events of the week included a concert and dance.

The week also featured an Alumni Awards Luncheon. where Eileen DeBellis Akers, Delbert L. "Butch" Phillips, Bobbi Bane Mohrman, Oce Smith, Brian L. Tristani and Chanda Ranjit Yonzon were honored. The 2006 Homecoming Service Project was a fund drive for HOPE, Inc. domestic violence shelter.

Although the week rocked by quickly, the melodic memories of Homecoming Week will be still rockin' for years to come for many participants.



HOMECOMING

By: Rachel Skubis



A Falcon cheerleader dances with the Falcon mascot during the pep rally in the Falcon Center on Friday, October 13th. Photo By Kevin Funk

Participants in the "Grease Look-A-Like Contest" enjoy a night of root beer floats, a viewing of the movie Grease, and plenty of laughs on Monday October 9th.

Photo By Rachel Skubis



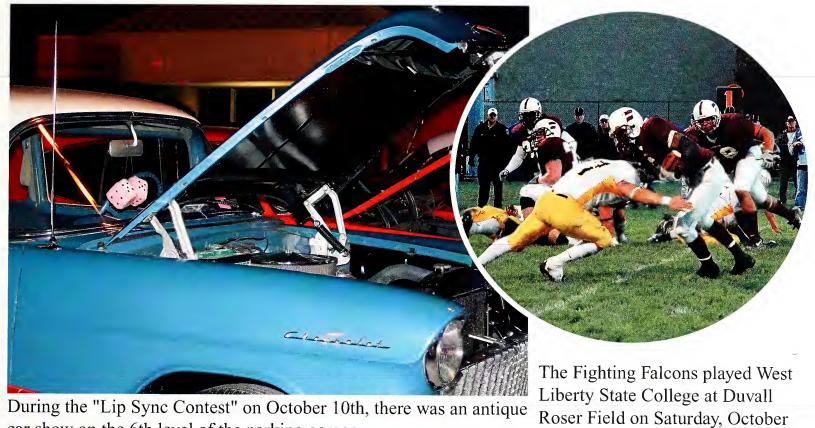




Left to right: Jeremy Shackelford, James Mau, Chris Lantz, Kristina Garrett, Joey Salentra, Mallory Hamilton, Colin Wright, and Travis Markley hold the spirit stick with pride. Photo By Kevin Funk



Shawn Ragsdale dances with a fellow classmate on the float for Ball Room Dancing. Photo By Kevin Funk



During the "Lip Sync Contest" on October 10th, there was an antique car show on the 6th level of the parking garage.

Photo By Rachel Skubis



2006 Homecoming Court, left to right: Front Row- Emily Dimitroff, Jennifer Miller, Marcia Monroe, Stephanie Utt, and Aretha Alexander; Second Row- Britney Parks, Kelli Gore, Kristy Efaw, Kristi Lynch, Kyle Lilley, and Josh Boyce; Third Row- Isaac Mobley, Phillip Nuce, Ekue Bright Adamah-Biassi, and John Kroll; Fourth Row- Whitney Burkhart and Ben Corley. Photo By Kevin Funk

14th. Photo By Kevin Funk

Cultural Interests

By: Sarah Mauller

In our modern world of technology and efficiency, we are able to connect to others at the touch of a button or the flip of a switch. But with progress coming from us at every angle, it's easy to focus so much on where we're going that we lose sight of where we come from. The West Virginia Folklife Center at Fairmont State is striving to remedy the disconnecting of our past from our present and

future. The Folklife Center is "dedicated to the identification, preservation and perpetuation of our region's rich cultural heritage."

At the sixth annual West Virginia Folklife Center Gala, held on October 7, 2006, local artisans, scholars and writers came together to celebrate the rich cultural heritage that has helped to shape both them as individuals and their work. The artwork, craftwork and handiwork on display bridged the gap between past and present, representing the vast spectrum of

West Virginia's cultural heritage over the years. The pop culture influences of Patrick Vincent's graphic art stood alongside the intricate hand stitched art of the Mountain Heritage Quilter's Guild. Dr. Rhonda Sanford displayed some of her watercolor paintings. Michele Porta, owner of Bello Vetro da Michele Studios in Parkersburg, described the process of creating her hand made jewelry. Ron Hilling exhibited his woodworking talents. Linda King and Helen Efaw talked to spectators about the art of basketmaking, demonstrating the art in degrees of completion. Dr. Beth Newcome showed some pieces from the Fairmont State Vintage Clothing Collection. And Judy Wilson, an "interpreter of history" at Prickett's Fort State Park,

was on hand to string a common thread throughout the evening by reminding all present of the days when clothing manufacture required hand woven fabrics.

The crowd viewed all of these contributions to Appalachia's art and identity while listening to musical performances by Michael Stewart, Frank Bombardiere and Bill Stalnaker. The evening's other activities included recognition of the West

Virginia Literary Map, a cake walk, a silent auction and a wine tasting event. All proceeds from the sale of admissions tickets

and wine tasting went to the Folklife Center Kennedy Barn Restoration Fund. The Kennedy Barn has a rich history, having once been home to Ruth Ann Musick in the days when it was the Colonial Apartments. The West Virginia Folklife Center at Fairmont State will

soon add to its rich history by taking up residence within its walls.

After the evening's festivities and Dr. Judy Byers, the Folklife Center's director, addressed the audience to recognize those "people who have made extraordinary contributions to West Virginia's culture." Fairmont State President Dan Bradley expressed his pride in the program's success, having said, "The Folklife Center is really on the move." With hopes to move the program's headquarters from its current location in the Education Building to the Kennedy Barn some time in the near future, the West Virginia Folklife Center at Fairmont State is moving toward the future while still cherishing the past of "a place called solid."





Folklife Center Director Judy Byers speaks to guests, commemorating the contributions people have made to the Center and West Virginia's culture. Photo By Sarah Mauller

Michael Stewart and Bill Stalnaker add a touch of music to the Gala. Photo By Sarah Mauller

Retired faculty member JoAnn Lough, a local historian of the area, participated in the evening's events. Photo By Sarah Mauller



Beyond School Credit

By: Jaimie Mayhorn and Rachel Skubis



Many community education courses took place in the Center of Workforce Education on Adams Street in Downtown Fairmont. Photo By Meredith Byrd

Below: Instructor Paula Darby sets up pages for a scrapbook in the "Scrapbooking Workshop." Photo By Meredith Byrd



By signing up for some of the many non-credit programs from Pierpont Community and Technical College, students are ensured to escape boredom and build their knowledge in a variety of activities. Some programs that are offered include: Introduction to Belly Dancing, Drawing, Pilates, Yoga, Piano, Guitar, Food and Wine Pairing, Cooking, Scrapbooking, and Jewelry Making. Most prices for the classes range from twenty to forty dollars.

These programs and workshops are designed to match people's individual and cultural interests.

Instructors range from professors at the university or community college and business people and artisans with experience in their selected areas. Ron Weist, Director of Community Education, stated, "We hope that people see us, value what we have to offer, and decide to try something new."

Weist has been the director since February 2006, entering the position with a vision to "create a sense of excitement" for local residents with affordable and enjoyable programs. Community Education is one of the seven core focuses for the university's plan. With a wide variety of programs offered, students and local residents with free-time are encouraged to get involved and learn something new.

Additional information, included detailed schedules, registration information, and policies, can be found on the Community Education website at http://www.fairmontstate.edu/communityeducation.



Students learn the basics of working with precious metal clay in "Jewelry Making." Photo By Kevin Funk

Below: Pastry Chef Barbara Yanero instructs students while satisfying their sweet taste buds as they create an assortment of chocolate candies in the "Chocolate" course. Photo By Kevin Funk



Above: Local basket weaver Helen Efaw shows the techniques and designs in the art of basket weaving. Photo By Jaimie Mayhorn

Below: Senior Justin Michell and 2003 graduate Megan Clark participate in the "Ballroom Dancing" course. Photo By Rachel Skubis



Troubadors

By: Sarah Mauller

Few pastimes or pursuits have the ability to connect people like music does. Members of our generation in particular gravitate toward and build friendships around both those who have the same taste in music and those who introduce us to our new favorite artists. In the appreciation we share for music, we find kindred spirits; polar opposites; fiercely independent thinkers who open us to new avenues of thought; and unassuming individuals who sing of a universality that feels as though it's directed at each of us personally. But above all, in music we find something to talk about, something that brings us together and keeps us engaged alongside one another.



It is that kind of connection that Greg Peters and Reggie Jose find in music. "Music is universal," said Jose, an undecided major at Fairmont State. His friend and fellow musician, Greg Peters, a criminal psychology major, agreed with Jose and elaborated on the connection they feel in music, "People don't express their feelings with others, and music is a good way to put your thoughts out there to talk about."

Peters and Jose meet at various locales on campus to play music for anyone who will listen and just for themselves. One day you might see them in the Quad, the next in the elevator vestibule at the top of the parking garage. They go there when it's too cold out to wander the campus in search of ears to fill, and were surprised to discover that their "sanctuary" has excellent acoustics.

The two are both self taught musicians, but, as Peters said, "not like other artists." Jose's band, "The Stars Are Veiled," promotes itself on MySpace. He comes from a very musically inclined family. His brother Aaron plays various instruments, and his sister Shona is a songbird like himself. Peters, who has recorded in the neighborhood of 40 songs through a home studio, shared Jose's sentiments on the connection with his family that he feels through music. Even though his taste is eclectic, he said, "I know if my mom likes a song, it's a good one."

Both Peters and Jose enjoy talking to random students they encounter on campus who stop to listen to them play and occasionally ask them questions. They, as well as any of us, appreciate the feelings of open exchange and being able to relate to others that they find in music. They write songs that anyone can identify with, about everyday thoughts and experiences. "Whatever you're thinking about at the time," said Peters, "you're gonna write about." Jose echoed his insight, stating that even though their styles may be different, "we have the same thoughts in our music."

If you run into Fairmont State's troubadours on campus, they will play for you and they do take requests, but they also have a request to make: "I may just set out my guitar case for people to throw money," said Jose, "or food... I would love people if they threw food."

Greg Peters and Reggie Jose perform some tunes in the Quad during a sunny September day. These two musicians could also be heard in the parking garage, amid other locations. Photo By Sarah Mauller

Activities Jair

By: Jamie Shreve

NTELL SENSE PESELECH

As eager students awaited the arrival of what could be the newest members of their group, they set up tables with an assortment of pamphlets, brochures, and flyers representing their individual organizations in hopes to make some new connections.

This event, held on September 19th of 2006, is an annual event held in order to familiarize students, especially freshman, with what clubs and groups are offered on campus as well as obtain and encourage the enrollment of new members. Laurie Johnston, the director of student activities, stated, "We had a lot of freshman who came. We want them to know about our organizations." Ms. Johnston expressed her enthusiasm for the turnout of the fair as well as the cooperation expressed by the members of the groups who were involved. Ms. Johnston stated , "By having the event in a smaller space (Falcon Center), the groups had to share

CRIMINAL

what their programs have to al

tables which allowed the members to get to know each other."

"Overall the event was great, fun, and there was a good amount of participants and activity," stated Ms. Johnston. "It's a shame that more clubs don't take advantage of this fair."

Because of the success and turnout of this year's Activities Fair, the event should prove productive and beneficial for all students and organizations. If your organization wasn't represented, be sure to get involved next year.



Wild and Wonderful

By: Sarah Mauller

How many of us take the time to walk through the woods and appreciate the majesty of nature? And how many of us actually feel like a part of our surroundings when we do? We rush around in mechanized transportation, to and from various shelters from the elements, not often stepping out of our modern comfort zones. In this life of convenience, some of us have lost the connection we feel with nature and with ourselves, and have let the shine of chrome dull the reflection of a sunset over a mountain lake.

Fairmont State's new take on the Freshmen Seminar course allows students and accompanying faculty to get back to nature and rekindle the connections with our "Mountain Momma" that have, for some, atrophied in the modern world. The Wilderness Explorer/Freshmen Seminar is a creative approach to helping incoming freshmen transition into a new realm of self discovery that the college experience provides. In this two week long trek through "Wild, Wonderful West Virginia" student participants were given the opportunity to learn their own capabilities and achieve both a physical and a spiritual conquest of sorts.

Coordinated by Dr. Barbara Fallon, FS Title III activities director, and led by Matt Schmuck, FS instructor in Health and Human Performance, the Wilderness Explorer/Freshman Seminar visited some of West Virginia's premier natural landmarks and tourist attractions. The group went rock climbing at Cooper's Rock State Park, rafting down the New River, and hiking at Seneca Rocks. Class meetings were held each evening around the camp fire, where discussion topics typical of any freshman seminar or orientation class drew even complete strangers to the camp fire to talk about life and to open up in a welcoming and accepting environment.

Those who went on this trip to fulfill their freshmen seminar requirements were quick to praise the experience as one that formed strong bonds of

friendship. "I felt like I got to know these guys better than I ever have in any Math or English class I've had," said Andy Tennant, an architecture student. His classmates agreed that not only did they feel more connected with one another than they normally do in a typical classroom setting, but they also felt a connection with nature that they hadn't felt before. Halie Gorey, who had been referred to this unusual course by Dr. Maria Rose, said she gained a "better appreciation for nature."

Some of the students who participated in this expedition course now have hopes to start a wilderness club on campus, and Schmuck hopes to see more interest in the Recreation Minor, offered through the Physical Education department, as a result of future courses like this one. Not only did the physical aspects of it challenge those who participated, but the intellectual and spiritual rewards were not lost on the students. The simultaneous discovery of self and nature helped to work out the atrophy that modern life can foster and helped to reintegrate these students into nature and into themselves.



Andy Tennant, Jeff Campbell, and Waid Harper hike while Jordan Crain leads the group. Submitted Photo



From left to right: Assistant Leader Dr. Morris, Jordan Crain, John More, KaylaTerlosky, Waid Harper, Trip Leader Matt Schmuck, Brittany Decker, Jeff Campbell, and Hali Gorey. Submitted Photo

Jordan Crain tests his endurance as he rock climbs at Seneca Rocks in Pendleton County. Submitted Photo



Left side of raft, front to back: Jeff Campbell, Waid Harper, Hali Gorey, and Dr. Tony Morris.

Right side of raft, front to back: John Moore, Britlary D. cker, Matt Schmuck, and Guide Melane Schers. Submitted Photo





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Digital Applications

By: Jaimie Mayhorn

College students know how expensive everything seems when we are unemployed. To make some extra cash, we venture away from campus to look for jobs. This can be quite tedious because of local traffic and so many other students applying for the same job. To make things more convenient for students, Fairmont State now hires and allows students to post applications on the Fairmont State website. Students can apply for oncampus jobs, such as Residence Hall Monitors, Office Assistants, Student Security Officers, Lifeguards, Lab Monitors, and many more.

Some of the positions are available throughout the year and require a large number of students to occupy the positions. Fairmont State encourages additional applications at a later date when a job is posted again.

If you ever find yourself needing a job, and you don't want to drive too far, just remember the advantage of applying online for one of the many job services available to students at Fairmont State. Not only is working somewhere on campus a huge time and money saver, especially if you are living on campus, but it is also a great way to be connected with other students at Fairmont

Students in the library work on their assignments, but some students also search for available jobs on the Fairmont State website, where they can fill out resumes and submit applications with the click of a button. Photo By Rachel Skubis



Looking for employment on campus is easy for students searching for workstudy opportunities, since the whole jobsearching process can be done on the computer. Photo By Rachel Skubis

Active Competition

The FSU Department of Intramurals offered competitive sports for students and employees. Providing a variety of recreational activities, Intramurals was great opportunity for people at the

university who wanted to be part of a team and have fun.

The Director of Intramurals was Tina Mascaro. She and her staff organized and took scores at such games as basketball, dodgeball, flag football, volletball, and soccer. Most events were held in the gymnasium of the Falcon Center. Other events, such as flag football, took place on the practice field and the East-West Stadium.

To form an Intramurals team, students simply needed to get people together and fill-out a roster. Each team required a captain, who was responsible for turning-in the roster, going to meetings, and making sure the team was aware of times and locations for the games. Meetings occurred at 12:30 every Tuesday in the office near Gym One of the Falcon Center.

Delta Xi Omicron member Stacy Leichliter commented, "Our team may not be the most athletic group, but we have a good time in every sport we've signed up to play. It's alot of fun, and we did win volleyball during the 2006 fall semester."

Both participants and fans enjoyed Intramurals games. For members of Intramurals teams, the experience was a healthy and competitive addition to their time outside of work and the classroom.

Above: Score-keepers Bethany Zellwegger and Kristi Sears watch the TEKE fraternity battle the Impulse crew at a flag football game. Photo By Rachel Skubis

Below: Senior John Paul Bucher, #23, drives in for a layup during a three-on-three basketball game. Photo By Rachel Skubis



UNITING GENERATIONS AND PRESERVING HISTORIES

By: Jamie Shreve

In an effort to honor our nation's war veterans, the United States Congress established the Veterans History Project, a project where the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress collects and preserves audio and video footage of oral histories along with several documentary materials of the men and women who lived and served through the World War I, World

War II, and the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf wars.

In embracing this project and making it a national effort, the Library of Congress and the American Folklife Center has opened its doors to outside institutions, and even individuals, for help. Of the most prevalent

contributors,

educational institutions are among the top. This partnership allows for the collecting of

diverse and abundant amounts of resources and most importantly co

resources and, most importantly, connects this and future generations with those who have served.

In 2004, Fairmont State University joined the American Folklife Center's Veterans' History Project, and with two years of membership under its belt, FSU has brought hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and community members in contact with war veterans. FSU's project goals are to honor veterans' contributions, involve students in service, authentically teach the culture of war, immerse students in the study of heritage, enhance students' appreciation of older generations, provide an opportunity for a rich speaking and writing

experience, and to foster cross-discipline and community partnerships.

In attempt to organize and utilize the project for community and educational use, FSU established a steering committee, including Dr. Nancy McClure, Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, Dr. Martin Bond, Dean of Liberal

Arts, Dr. Gerald Bobango and Dr. Pat Albano, history professors, and Dr. Diana

Moore, criminal justice professor.

This committee developed a training program for anyone who wanted to participate,

communicably or educationally. Once the training was completed, a veteran or civilian was assigned to each participant who researched the war in which the interviewee was involved, conducted an interview with the proper equipment, and submitted the final videotape and transcript to Dr. Bond.

The project was taken for a one-hour training credit and a one-

hour service-learning credit for students. Participation in this project helped the community and students attach a face to what happened during specific wars and united the younger generations with those who served our nation directly or indirectly. Students connected with someone to hear about their past to preserve their stories and enhance the future.

Vet Yoho points out some memorable photos in his photo album to a student-interviewer. Submitted Photo

Groups of Worship

By: Jaimie Mayhorn

Giving thanks to the one who made us who we are and the reason we are able to live are the main focuses for Christian groups on campus. These groups not only allow us to give thanks, but also to help us grow as better Christians through teaching us His word.

Chi Alpha meets weekly in informal gatherings to be challenged by a relevant message, to worship God and develop great friendships. They also play basketball and offer caffeinated drinks at their meetings. They host several Life Groups - small group Bible Studies, authentically dealing

with real-life issues – on and off campus.

Some of their larger activities include: taking a team of students to China to teach English and Basketball, they also helped assist with Freshman move-in, as well as, Co-sponsoring the Bryant Place

Matt Sprenger, Campus

volleyball tournament.

Pastor, states that the mission

on Chi Alpha is "Reconciling students to Christ, transforming the university, the marketplace, and the world."

Another religious organization on campus is Campus Light Ministries. They have a weekly Bible study from 12:30 to 1:30 every Thursday in Room 103 of Jayne's Hall. They provide lunch for the students at the meetings. Their meetings begin with announcements about upcoming Campus Light activities and campus events and end with a Bible study. The Bible study is about 30-45 minutes. During the last few minutes, they take special

requests for prayer and then praying for them. They are also offering a Ladies only Bible study. Their main purpose, as stated by Shawn Trueman (Campus Pastor for FSU and WVU), is "Both to evangelize the campus with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to provide a means for Christian growth and fellowship on the secular college campus.

> BCM members have fun at the annual Halloween Party. Submitted Photo

Holly Metheny and Stacy Mc-Clung help shivering students warm up by handing out free hot cocoa. Submitted Photo

> Justin Michael and Lance Pittman share some drinks, snacks and a good time at a tailgate party. Submitted Photo

FLEXING MUSCLES, STAVING FIT

By: Rachel Skubis

On Wednesday, December 6th, competition took on the form of flexed muscles at the first annual Falcon Center Weight Lifting Competition at Fairmont State University. Junior Lesley Cunningham and seniors Jeb Smith and Thomas Hooton planned and organized the event,

which resulted in forty men and six

women participants.

The organizers said that people were asking when the second competition was going to be shortly after the first one took place, proof of the excitement for weightlifting and the physical challenges and health benefits it

provides.

One participant,
Nick Greco, a freshman
pre-nursing major, used to
wrestle in high school. He said
that wrestling got him started with
weight training, a hobby of his for the past six

months. "It gives me a challenge," he commented.

Sophomore exercise science and health

Sophomore exercise science and health science major Joel Distefano started preparing for the competition about a month ahead of time and said, "I like to stay in shape and get healthy."

Weightlifting builds discipline and overall health," senior physical education major Stanley Moore stated. A football player at FSU, he said that he does not work out to the extent as he does during football season but still tries to lift weights about five times a week.

Another participant of the evening, Kim Goodrich, a senior Allied Health major, lifts weights four to five times a week. "Being in my 30's, it keeps me active and gives me lots of energy," she

said. "I think it's something everyone should do."

Weight lifting fanatics, of course, do not only include college students. Steve Dodd, the owner of the Nautilus Connection in Fairmont and Fitness for Women in Morgantown, which will be opening

in January 2007, said he gets customers from 16 to 80 years of age.

"Almost everyone can engage in some type of weight training," he mentioned.

Dodd said
that there are many
reasons for weight
lifting, including
"rehabilitation,
strengthening
bones, increasing
BMR (basal
metabolic rate), and
reducing arthritis
pain." A risk he
mentioned was improper
training, which can cause
injury. He added, "Certified
personal trainers are educated in

weight training to know what to do and what not to do with individuals."

As for muscle-enhancing supplements, he said there are only a few products that he feels can aid in weight lifting. "Nothing will improve your weight lifting results better than properly applied nutrition," he added.

Being at the Nautilus for twenty years, Dodd has noticed recent increases in the number of people getting memberships to the gym. He explained, "In the past five years, the general public is learning

Junior exercise science majors James Tenney and Tony Wishard practice before the competition begins. Photo By Rachel Skubis how inexpensive it is to maintain good health by joining a health club with a qualified staff."

As for Fairmont State students, the rec center, located on the second floor of the Falcon Center, is paid through tuition fees.

The weight lifting competition was an anticipated evening for many rec center usuals. Senior graphics and fine arts major Tim Hickey said that he is constantly at the gym. "It was nice to see them have something like this," he stated.

As for the success of the first-ever weight lifting competition on Fairmont State grounds, Cunningham said, "It went above my expectations. I only had the sign advertising it up for about ten days before the competition, and I was amazed that we got such a response since it was kind of short notice."

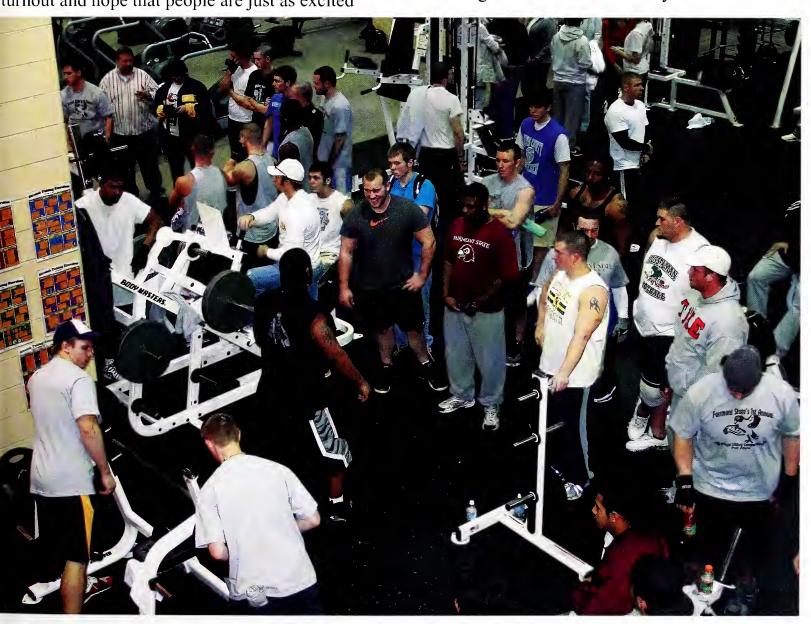
Smith added, "I was impressed with the turnout and hope that people are just as excited

about doing it next semester as they were this semester."

The next competition is planned to take place in the spring around April.

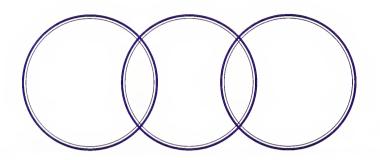
The winners of the Falcon Center competition in the Male Division were Nick Greco (100-150), Brian Kellaway (151-200), Jay Blackwell (201-250), and Kenneth Hacker (251-up). Winners of the FSU Athlete Division included Chris Sedlacek (100-150), Jeff Campbell (151-200), Stan Moore (201-250), and Ronnell Lee (251-up). The winner of the Women Division was Megan Mellott (161-190) and of the Women FSU Athlete Division was Nicki Stanley (131-160). The Team Division winners were Brian Kellaway and Rodney Reeves.

Participants wait their turn to handle the weights in their assigned divisions. Photo By Rachel Skubis



LASTING RELATIONSHIPS

By: Rachel Skubis





Brandi White Mines dances with her husband CJ on their wedding day. Photo By Rachel Skubis

Some college experiences can be temporary and unstable—lasting for a moment in time but not for a lifetime. The ever-changing semesters provide many opportunities to meet new people, but these meetings can result in countless acquaintances without the type of special connections that possess the potential to last long-term.

Some people have escaped this unfortunate loop, and their stories provide a tribute to commitment and friendship worthy of recognition and reverence.

At the age of fourteen, Brandi White and her cousin Roger Doss used to run the paper route in Clarksburg. Occasionally, the two cousins would ask CJ Mines if he could take their places in the early-morning task. Later, Brandi and CJ were in the high school band together. "During band camp I felt like I was king of the world because I was a mere freshman hanging out with a gorgeous senior," CJ reminisced.

After an astronomy meeting his freshmen year in high school, CJ asked Brandi to be his girlfriend. "It was the second hardest question I ever asked in my life," CJ recalled.

The two began officially dating on February 24, 2001.

The next two and a half years, Brandi and CJ lived hundreds of miles apart. Brandi was attending Allegany College of Maryland, and CJ was finishing up high school at Robert C. Byrd. Brandi said, "Constant conversation and seeing each other on the weekends helped, but we decided to take some time apart."

She then added with a smile, "That time ended up lasting not even a week!"

After moving back to West Virginia and attending Fairmont State together for four semesters, the couple was inseparable. "After four years and going through all of the good, the bad, and the distance, I realized that if a man could stand by my side through all of that, then he must be the most incredible person I've ever met. I wasn't going to let him get away" Brandi mentioned.

And she didn't.

On September 23, 2006, CJ's hardest question

he has ever asked was answered, as Miss White became Mrs. Brandi White Mines. The couple wed at the First United Methodist Church in Clarksburg. The newlyweds now reside at their new home in Whitehall.

Jo and Okey Clevenger are 1976 and 1978 graduates from Fairmont State College. While students at Fairmont State, they both lived in the same apartment complex, East Garden Lane Apartments. Although they saw each other walking

to and from classes, they never had a class together and lived on separate floors. These barriers, however,

only withstood a brief time.

Okey made a random visit to her apartment one day in September of 1975 to borrow a vacuum cleaner. "I think he just wanted to meet the girls who lived above him," Jo mentioned. "I happened to be the one that answered the door and we talked for a little bit."

At that time, the two were dating other people but became good friends. Jo said, "We did not start dating until a year after we had met. We saw each other at the back-to-school bash in September of 1976 at Valley Falls, started dating and have been together ever since."

They got married in May of 1979.

The couple has two sons, Steve, who is 23 and lives in Morgantown, and David, who is 25 and lives in Arlington, Virginia. Okey and Jo share a history and a family that has surpassed the fragility of most relationships. "Okey and I both think that being friends before we started dating has helped our relationship to last. Not only do you have to love your spouse, but you also have to like them," Jo said.

While some college-aged students are lucky enough to find their soul mates, Fairmont State

senior Kristy Efaw is happy she met her soul sisters. Kristy pledged Delta Zeta in the spring semester of 2004.

"I knew little about sororities and was very skeptical as to whether or not it was for me," she recalled. It didn't take her long, however, to realize that Delta Zeta was where she belonged.

In December of 2005, Kristy was nominated and elected as Delta Zeta President.

Her sisters provide her with a sense of stability that balances the hectic circumstances of

classes and life in general. "My sisters are the girls that help me through

it all, from things as small as broken nails to things as big

as broken hearts," she said, "They have helped define

me."

Her two best friends are her sorority sisters
Johnna Barber and
Talia Stenger. "They will definitely be the two girls standing right beside me when I'm at the altar," she mentioned. Recalling the wisdom of an older member of the sorority, Kristy added, "I didn't

come to college to find my husband. I came to find my bridesmaids".

Whether by fate or by chance, meaningful relationships can and do form during the college years. Young adults chaotically juggle routines, schedules, and priorities, creating many uncertainties in their minds for tomorrow, not to mention the future. One just never knows, however, the time and place a special someone will enter another's life. As shown in these people's stories, this is one uncertainty of the college years that can surely be looked forward to.

Pictured above: Delta Zeta sorority sisters Johnna Barber, Talia Stenger, and Kristy Efaw. Submitted Photo



Many students walked passed this organic display on their way to the Falcon Center. *Photo By Sarah Mauller*

Vines, rocks, and tree limbs would not normally catch students' interests, but the Architecture Design 3 classmates enhanced their principles of design by creating formations throughout campus that striked students' curiosity and conversation. *Photo By Rachel Skubis*



NATURE UNITES CAMPUS

By: Meredith Byrd

Early in the fall semester at Fairmont State niversity, students received a treat of fantastic esthetic proportions. Hanging from various trees coradically throughout campus, bunches of leaves, reighed down by what appeared to be stones, anged from limbs around Hardway Hall and the alcon Center. These bunches, appearing more like susters of bananas, were tied by thin white twine. To explanation was given.

Around the base of the trees

ere rows of smooth, white ones, placed strategically various formations. In ome locations, cherries, omatoes, and flower etals were used to give the organic structures a blash of panache.

The most prevalent rganic structure appeared a campus like crop circles ragically form in the cornfields of Kansas. It was a wooden, spiral prmation placed on the grounds of ryant Place. If some students did not notice the

ther organic oddities on campus, most did see this ne. Clearly visible from the elevators located in the parking garage, many students and faculty alike elemented on the craftsmanship of the spiraled cooden object with the stones carefully placed at the center, almost reminding one of a small tonehenge.

The presences of such structures are of seen on campus every year. Since this is a are occurrence, the students of Fairmont State niversity, as well as the faculty, definitely took office. Where did the organic structures really ome from? "The organic installations on campus ere designed and placed by the Architecture esign 3 students," Dr. Marian Hollinger stated.

The structures vanished as mysteriously as they appeared. The Architecture Design 3 class showed all of us how beautiful nature can be even as we mindlessly pass it each day, not giving it a second glance. With their efforts, people on campus took notice of nature, even for just a week, and were unified in conversation and collective awe of what nature can provide.

Students proved that nature is full of color, texture, and symmetry.

Photo By Sarah Mauller



Headed to classes from the parking garage, many students saw this structure through the window of the elevator. *Photo By Rachel Skubis*

How Many Connections Do You Have?

Name:

Fall or Spring Semester Credits:

Major/s:

Number of People in Your Cell-Phone Directory Attending Fairmont State:

Campus Organizations:

Number of Total People in Your Cell-Phone Directory:

Number of Years Attending Fairmont State:









Number of Songs on Your MP3 or IPOD:

Number of Total "Facebook Friends":

Number of Jobs and Other Fairmont State Students that Work with You:

Number of Family Members Attending Fairmont State:

Number of "Facebook Friends" from Fairmont State:

Parking Garage/Parking Lot/Walk to Campus:

Name: Megan Wilson

Major/s: Elementary Education

Campus Organizations: Delta Zeta

Number of Years Attending Fairmont

State: 3

Fall or Spring Semester Credits: 21

Number of People in Your Cell-Phone

Directory Attending Fairmont State: **75**

Number of Total People in Your Cell-

Phone Directory: 100

Number of Songs on Your MP3 or

POD: **385**

Number of Jobs and Other Fairmont

State Students that Work with You:

,60

Number of "Facebook Friends" from

Fairmont State: 292

Number of Total "Facebook Friends":

500+

Number of Family Members Attending

Fairmont State: 0

Parking Garage/Parking Lot/Walk to

Campus: Parking Garage







Name: Rose Ann Levelle

Major/s: Math Education

Campus Organizations: 0

Number of Years Attending Fairmont State: **2**

Fall or Spring Semester Credits: 17

Number of People in Your Cell-Phone Directory Attending Fairmont State: **6 -10**

Number of Total People in Your Cell-Phone Directory: **23**

Number of Songs on Your MP3 or IPOD: **N/A**

Number of Jobs and Other Fairmont State Students that Work with You: **1,6**

Number of "Facebook Friends" from Fairmont State: **70**

Number of Total "Facebook Friends": **100**

Number of Family Members Attending Fairmont State: **0**

Parking Garage/Parking Lot/Walk to Campus: **Parking Garage and Lots**





Name: James Wikle

Major/s: Math Education

Campus Organizations: **0**

Number of Years Attending Fairmont State: 1

Fall or Spring Semester Credits: ?

Number of People in Your Cell-Phone Directory Attending Fairmont State: 1

Number of Total People in Your Cell-Phone Directory: **10**

Number of Songs on Your MP3 or IPOD: **205**

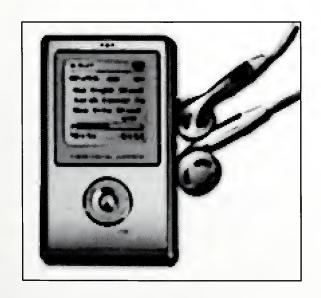
Number of Jobs and Other Fairmont State Students that Work with You: **N/A**



Number of Total "Facebook Friends": **N/A**

Number of Family Members Attending Fairmont State: 1

Parking Garage/Parking Lot/Walk to Campus: Parking Garage and Lots



Name: Amanda Smith

Major/s: Education / Math

Campus Organizations: 0

Number of Years Attending Fairmont

State: 2

Fall or Spring Semester Credits: **15-18**

Number of People in Your Cell-Phone Directory Attending Fairmont State:

More Than Half

Number of Total People in Your Cell-Phone Directory: **22**

Number of Songs on Your MP3 or

IPOD: **58**

Number of Jobs and Other Fairmont State Students that Work with You:

1 job / 0 FSU students

Number of "Facebook Friends" from Fairmont State: **About 90**

Number of Total "Facebook Friends":

About 80

Number of Family Members Attending Fairmont State: **0**

Parking Garage/Parking Lot/Walk to

Campus: Parking Lots





Name: **Jessica Ray**

Major/s: Education

Campus Organizations: **0**

Number of Years Attending Fairmont

State: 2

Fall or Spring Semester Credits: 18

Number of People in Your Cell-Phone Directory Attending Fairmont State: **5**

Number of Total People in Your Cell-

Phone Directory: **20**

Number of Songs on Your MP3 or

IPOD: N/A

Number of Jobs and Other Fairmont

State Students that Work with You:

One / None

Number of "Facebook Friends" from

Fairmont State: Not Sure

Number of Total "Facebook Friends":

50 Maybe

Number of Family Members Attending

Fairmont State: 4

Parking Garage/Parking Lot/Walk to

Campus: Parking Garage





Name: Chris Underwood

Major/s: English / Journalism

Education

Campus Organizations: 0

Number of Years Attending Fairmont

State: **7**

Fall or Spring Semester Credits: 19

Number of People in Your Cell-Phone Directory Attending Fairmont State: **11**

Number of Total People in Your Cell-Phone Directory: **56**

Number of Songs on Your MP3 or IPOD: **N/A**

Number of Jobs and Other Fairmont State Students that Work with You:

1 Job / 1 FSU Student

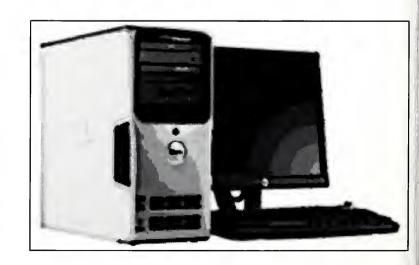
Number of "Facebook Friends" from Fairmont State: **13**

Number of Total "Facebook Friends": **32**

Number of Family Members Attending Fairmont State: **0**

Parking Garage/Parking Lot/Walk to Campus: **Parking Garage**





Name: Lisa Respole

Major/s: Speech Comm.

Campus Organizations: Delta Zeta,

Columns

Number of Years Attending Fairmont

State: 4

Fall or Spring Semester Credits: 18

Number of People in Your Cell-Phone Directory Attending Fairmont State: **80**

Number of Total People in Your Cell-Phone Directory: **150**

Number of Songs on Your MP3 or

IPOD: **993**

Number of Jobs and Other Fairmont State Students that Work with You:

2 Jobs / 20 FSU Students

Number of "Facebook Friends" from

Fairmont State: 230

Number of Total "Facebook Friends":

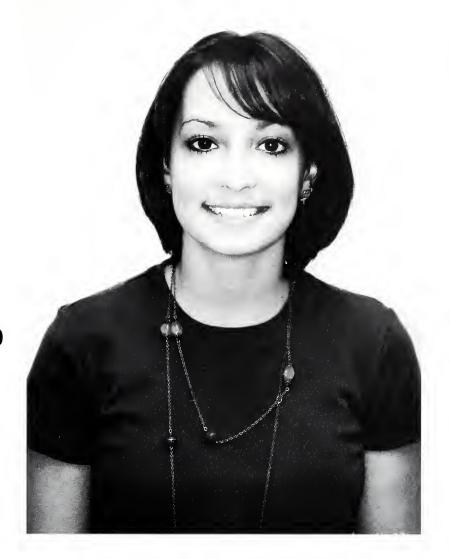
Over 1,000

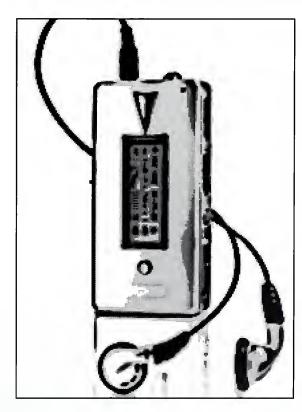
Number of Family Members Attending

Fairmont State: 0

Parking Garage/Parking Lot/Walk to

Campus: Parking Garage





There is a diversity of places where students enjoy spending their time away from studying and classes. Bars and clubs close by, such as Impulse, Shakers (formerly known as the Library), and The College Lunch, seem to top the list because of their locations. A majority of students also enjoy clubs such as the Book-N-Bean for its coffee, laid back nature, and variety of bands that play on the weekends and some weeknights. Many like to express their competitive nature and enjoy spending their time at places such as the Fairmont Bowling Center. Most students even anticipate their usual Saturday night trips to Morgantown to experience an even livelier side of nightlife at Bent-Willey's. Whether you are a person who likes to dance, sit back, or just be with friends, there are many hangouts to choose from.

Bars such as Impulse and Shakers are geared more toward those who dance, love loud music and shoot pool than those who would just like to sit back and relax. For students

Impulse on Fairmont Avenue is a popular place to dance and drink. The bar is especially popular on Saturday nights when ladies can drink for free. *Photo By Rachel Skubis*



who fit in that category, The College Lunch is a great place. Occasionally, the Lunch will have a band playing on the weekend, but any other night of the week, it is a place for students to unwind, have a few beers, and reminisce about good times with their friends. "It's a chill place to be," according to Brandon Fisher, a Junior Business major.

For students who enjoys a little bit of everything, Bent-Willey's in Morgantown is an appropriate choice. It accommodates nine bars into one building, such as the Main Bar, 80's Lounge, Mini Bar, Dance Club, High Energy Club, Patio Bar, and a "Cool Zone." It also holds a huge dance floor and lounge areas. "I really don't have a preference. I enjoy every bar and I love how they have such a variety. There's always something for everyone," says junior marketing and business major Whitney Richardson.

No matter where students like to spend their time, there are always plenty of parties for a variety of occasions or even no occasion at all.



The College Lunch is a laid back bar located near the school on Locust Avenue that is known for its live music and chicken wings, which range from \$3.69 (six wings) and \$20.00 (twenty wings). It is also quite historical — a "must-do" for students. *Photo By Rachel Skubis*

Parties such as Pajama Jam or 80's Night are found to be popular with Fairmont students. Usually these parties are arranged by the bar where they are held. Most have the option of wearing a costume or playing certain music and usually cost \$5-\$10 to attend.

There are also opportunities at hangouts for specific occasions, such as back to school, end of school, Valentines Day, New Years' Eve, St. Patrick's Day, and Halloween, where specials are offered and costumes may be worn.

Even though it seems to be all fun and games,

there are rules at every bar that must be followed. At Shakers and Bent-Willey's, for instance, you must be 21 years old to even enter the building. There is underage drinking security that is in full force at places such as Impulse, where you must be 18 to enter. There are also numerous and new security means, such as big X's drawn with permanent marker that cover both hands and cameras in the building. Some places in the area even have dress codes to prohibit baggy pants, flip flops, backward hats, and a requirement of polo shirts to enter the building

to ensure the decency of the students and the

business.

On the lighter side of Fairmont nightlife, there is the Book-N-Bean. It offers a wide assortment of hot drinks, food, and bands such as Jeremy Batten, Into The Void, Sixty Dollars, and Jack Erdie. There is always a big calendar that features events to meet students' tastes.

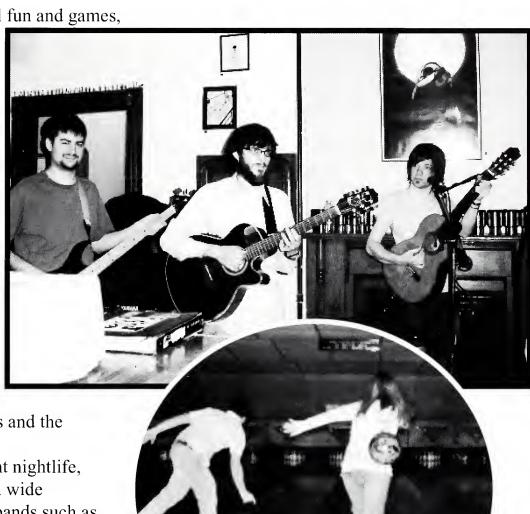
The Book -N- Bean also includes a gift shop called "The Beaded Tiger."

The Fairmont Bowling Center offers bowling leagues along with a bar, game room, and concession stand. A favorite is a \$5 all-you-can-bowl special on Tuesday nights from 10:00-12:30, which is a big hit with Fairmont State students. "I enjoy bowling because it is a beneficial way to relieve stress, have a good time with friends, and

get out of the dorms," said senior graphics major Brianne Setlak.

With all these available options, students have places to go to escape the stress of work or class and just to have a good time.

Fairmont State student Bobby Dunn performs alongside Michael Stewart and Jeremy Batten during Open Mic Night at the Book-N-Bean. Open Mic Night occurs every Thursday evening at the coffeehouse. *Photo By Ally Chichester*



The Fairmont Bowling Center, located at 1 Kirkway Drive, is almost always packed on Tuesday nights, when everyone can bowl for five dollars starting at 10:00 PM. *Photo By Ally Chichester*

Sisters by Birth

After some time, people who share the same major, apartment or dorm, or sorority or fraternity eventually feel like a family. Other students have real biological bonds follow them into higher education.

Hayley and Holly Debolt are twin sisters who graduated in the spring of 2007. They lived together for their first year of college until Hayley moved out the following year. Hayley said, "It was awesome

having my sister go to the same school as me. We are so close, especially since we are twins. We have never wanted to do anything that kept us apart."

Holly said, "Going to the same college as Hayley has been an interesting experience. I am glad to stay close to her, but I also regret not being able to establish my own identity. That's probably something with which many twins struggle."

Both sisters believe that having a sibling on campus was advantageous to their academic and social life on campus. They both met people from each other's fields and got to collaborate on some projects. They also took a

couple classes together, allowing them to carry on class discussions at home. "Every once in a while I help her with some mathematics that might pop up in chemistry," Hayley mentioned.

The sisters also did a senior project together, allowing them to borrow from each other's

disciplines. Holly graduated with a degree in chemistry, while Hayley graduated with one in math. Hayley said, "We will most likely go to graduate school together too."

"I enjoyed having some of the same classes as she did, but I also have enjoyed finding our separate paths," Holly added.

Another set of twin sisters, Olivia and Rebecca Fulayter, felt that having a sibling at the

> same college allowed an easier transition. Olivia said, "We could share the same book, eat lunch, and walk to classes together. However, when walking to classes without her, I find people calling me her!"

Similar to Hayley and Holly, Olivia and Rebecca also lived together for twenty-one years and are former graduates of East Fairmont High School. In March of 2007, Olivia moved out of her parents' house, from which Rebecca mentioned, "I miss my sis being at home to have someone to talk to or just hang out with or yell at!"

When it comes to adjusting to college,



Hayley and Holly Debolt went to school together their whole lives, finally graduating side-by-side on May 12, 2007 from Fairmont State University. Photo Submitted By Hayley Debolt

Olivia stated, "Having family on campus is nothing but help. It's nice to have someone you know and are so close to, to hang out with at least until you're comfortable in your new surroundings."

Rebecca agreed, "It is very beneficial having my sibling at the same college, for financial reasons mostly. You can save money by sharing similar books, and you can also save on gas money because you can ride together to school. Plus, if I had any questions about something that was happening on campus, I could ask her and she might know."

Katie Corley and her sister Julie lived together during Katie's freshman year. During her sophomore year, they lived beside each other in the single suites of Bryant Place until Julie graduated in the December of 2006.

"Having a sister going to the same college as me was weird and interesting at the same time. It was just like living with her at home because we saw each other all the time," Katie said.

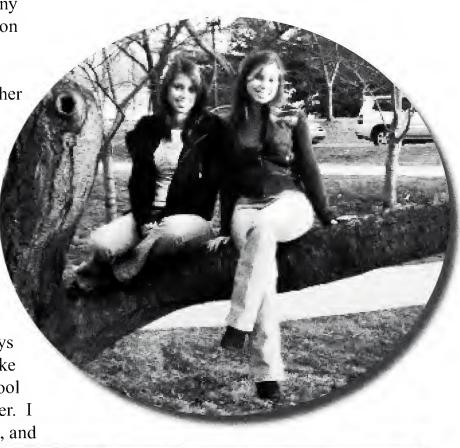
Julie graduated with a degree in elementary education, a major in which Katie is currently studying. Katie said, "I could always go to her if I had any questions about who to take for what classes and also just having her in school with me as a freshman helped me to adjust better. I could confide in her anytime I needed someone, and

I am very thankful for the time we shared together in our college years."

As shown in these women's stories, the bonds of biological sisterhood are tight. Positively influencing their living and learning situations, they play a reassuring role as unbreakable confidants.

Olivia and Rebecca Fulayter are twin sisters who have lived together until March of 2007, but they still remain close.

Photo Submitted By Rebecca Fulayter





2006 graduate Julie Corley and her sister Katie helped each other adjust to college life as roomates. *Photo Submitted By Julie Corley*

Social Networking

By: Kristen Vipperman









With thousands of Fairmont State students and dozens of on-campus organizations, AIM, Myspace, and Facebook make ways of communication easier. These networking services provide a practical and easy way to send invitations, reminders or even just friendly ways to say hi to a friend you haven't seen since last semester. Being in several on-campus organizations, these electronic tools are very efficient. Without them, things would be too different to even imagine.

AIM is a branch of America Online (AOL). The AOL AIM client application allows student-to-student communication and an instant messaging service. When using AIM, you can send a message to other people on a buddy list along with smiley faces and other icons to further express your feelings and help get your point across.

When asked how she used smilies on AIM, architecture major Marsha Benson said, "Smilies are an expression of who I am and how I feel. If sending you a smiley will make you happy, then I will send you one every day to cheer you up!"

If you are not currently at your computer when someone leaves you a message, then you can customize and set up your own away message that lets people know where you are at, what you are doing and when you will return to your computer. This is helpful to many college students because you can communicate with someone online while you are doing some research for your next project.

Myspace was created in 2003 by Tom Anderson, an alumnus of UC Berkeley and UCLA, and Chris DeWolfe, a graduate of USC's Marshall School of Business. According to Alexa Internet, it was the world's fifth most popular English-language website and the eighth most popular in the world as of March 2006.

Myspace is a site used to link friends from all parts of the globe through comments left on

profiles or emails that only the recipient can view. Registered users can express themselves by customizing their page through backgrounds, songs, cursors and other ingenious ways. "My Myspace is colorful and has my latest favorite song playing at all times and has a slide show of my best friends," said marketing major Whitney Richardson. Myspace is useful because it helps students and graduates stay in touch and updated with their lives.

Facebook is another website that people can use to upload photos, links, and videos. This networking service connects friends and others through jobs, regions, and schools. Facebook is very popular with many Fairmont State students, as they keep them updated with other students' lives and activities.

"I check Facebook 10 times a day, and when I don't get to, I feel like I'm missing out on something," said Kristy Efaw, an elementary education major. Organizations on-campus find this site especially useful for creating invitations, online groups, and friendly reminders. Regular students use it as a substitute for a phone call, text message, or sticky note.

Many students have taken advantage of these modern-day communication tools. Without them, what would we have to resort to? If we had to find an alternative way of communication, we would all have higher cell phone bills and use a lot more pencils and paper.

With a variety of computer labs located on campus, students have the ability to stay in contact with fellow classmates and friends through AIM and social networking sites while working on their assignments.

Photo By Sarah Mauller



Online courses are carried out through WebCT Vista, a course delivery system. Many instructors take advantage of this system to email their classes important updates and information.

Photo By Rachel Skubis



The Virginia Tech school shooting that occurred on April 16, 2007 was an immense tragedy for the Hokies and the nation alike. Many universities, including Fairmont State, showed their support by changing their profile pictures on Facebook to this symbol of awareness and remembrance.



TRIGGERING TASTE BUDS

By: Rachel Skubis

College students' tastes are very diverse, but when it comes to growling tummies, there are similar cravings. Local restaurants in Fairmont proudly serve Fairmont State students with comfort food that is just as much a part of their lives as their hobbies and schoolwork.

Although most students are not aware of its existence until it is past midnight, Mom's Place is a tradition for many late-night food scavengers. Located on RR 3 on the east side of Fairmont, the restaurant's windows shine in delight for students who often drive to the restaurant in packs.

Mom's has home-cooked meals for inexpensive prices. One of the favorites on the menu is the sausage, biscuits, and gravy. Students do not mind the drive out to "the middle of nowhere," since it is somewhere in Fairmont that is open twenty-four hours besides the McDonald's drive-through.

Another popular place to eat in Fairmont is the Poky Dot, conveniently located on Fairmont Avenue. Uniquely decorated with colorful props for a retro and wacky atmosphere, the diner plays recognizable 50's tunes with the nearly nonstop clatter of silverware and tongues. The diner also has



Some fast-food choices available at the Nickel are shown above. The Nickel is a convenient place for students to pick-up a quick lunch inbetween classes.

Photo By Rachel Skubis

Students wait eagerly to receive their dinner at the Dining Hall, where a variety of meals can be purchased with either cash, debit, of the Falcon ID Card.

Photo By Rachel Skubis

formal, quieter area for sophisticated occasions.

Serving everything from hamburgers and hicken wings to country-fried steak and wraps, nany food preferences are met with success. While he diner's french fries and cheddar cheese are asty, the Poky Dot is greatly known for yummy hilkshakes and a wide selection of desserts. Most of the diner's desserts are drizzled with chocolate yrup, a trademark to compliment the sweet treats.

The Nickel and Dining Hall in the Falcon enter are also popular places for students to sit ack with friends for a meal or a break from classes. ocated on the second and third floors of the Falcon enter, it is difficult for most students to resist the roma of sizzling food as they commute from class o class. The Nickel is made up of a fast-food area and convenience store, while the Dining Hall offers "market place" setting with an all-you-can-eat option.

Any of these locations bring happy stomachs and familiar faces, uniting students with a hunger or delicious meals and good times. Students will robably visit these restaurants once again later a life, as their taste buds bring them back to the replaceable flavor of college life.

Iom's Place has been a Fairmont tradition since its pening in June of 1990. Here, customers can sing araoke on Friday night or gather for a rather cheap te-night feast any day of the week.





Poky Dot received a fresh appeal after the restaurant was renovated, a process that took from the end of 1999 until the late fall of 2001. Formerly known as Rhonda's in the early 1950's, today the Poky Dot is popular for its many unique cheesecakes and pies. *Photo By Rachel Skubis*



Backwoods Grill, currently located at 1602 Locust Avenue, had a grand opening at its new location, 422 Marion Square, in August. The restaurant is known for its Cajun entrees, steak, seafood, sandwiches, and appetizers. A favorite appetizer is the "French Fry Frenzee." *Photo By Rachel Skubis*



Ashley Angelilli and Jon Harris work at the BFS Liquor Store on East Side. Photo By Rachel Skubis

Staying on Leaving Home By: Rachel Skubi

Some people move away from home soon after high school graduation. Others choose to commute back and forth from college, save their money and get their own places after they find a full-time job.

Living at home and living away from home are two options that everyone must choose at some point, but what timing is best? And do they both lead to post-college success?

Jon Harris is a student at Fairmont State majoring in criminal justice and psychology. Going to college required him to move away from his home in Elkins, which is a little over an hour away from the university. During his first two years, he lived at College Park Apartments but now lives in

an apartment of his own near the school.

He said, "Living in College Park made studying hard because it was usually loud and people were always stopping by. Living in my current house has made things much easier because I live by myself and don't have nearly as many distractions. Not being at home makes it a little harder to motivate myself to study, but my grades have stayed about the same."

His monthly bills for his apartment range from \$750 to \$1,200 a month depending on the tim of the year. A former employee at Go-Mart and currently an employee at BFS Liquor Store on East Side, he does not feel that his job — a necessity for living on his own — interferes with the rest of his

ife.

The liquor store has increased my socialization because I always see friends (who) come in and know what is going on around town," he said. "I also have a much easier time studying because I get off earlier and have Sundays off."

For Jon, his living situation has been an advantage overall. "I lost touch with a lot of my old friends (who) don't go to school here, but I try to visit with them when I can, when I go home," he said. "I have also developed a lot of close riendships with people that I wouldn't have met if I didn't come to college in Fairmont."

Ashley Hinerman, a 2006 Fairmont State graduate with a degree in English and journalism education, experienced both lifestyles. She lived at Pence Hall her first year of college and then commuted from her hometown of

Clarksburg after her freshman year. A drive to and from college was about an hour drive.

Living in a dorm can create friendships and a sense of independence, but it can also distract from schoolwork. "When you live on or near campus, you are ight in the middle of everything," she

aid. "It's much easier to put off assignments, projects and studying when you live on campus. When you live away, it seems a hassle to drive an aour to go to a party. I was able to be more focused while living at home. When I needed a quick study break in the dorms, they were never quick! I could walk down the hall and easily waste an hour of studying by talking to friends and whatnot. At home, study breaks weren't nearly as fun!"

Chris Shriver, another 2006 Fairmont State graduate with a degree in health and physical education, is a native of Wana. He commuted from nome throughout college, which amounted to a 90-ninute drive to and from the school each day.

"It helped with family support always being here," he said. "Friendships are important, but iving so far away could be a bother. Academically, iving at home helped ... just had to deal with parents, not a whole dorm full of people or a

roommate."

Financially, both Ashley and Chris considered that living at home was a plus. Ashley said, "It is much cheaper living at home, minus the cost of gasoline. My tuition was probably a little over \$2,000 or \$3,000 with room and board, whereas at home it costs nothing. Fuel, however, went from filling up once every week to two weeks, to filling up twice a week when I moved home."

Chris also felt that finances were less of a fret. "I saved a lot of money by not having to pay for food every day and rent, but some cons were the distance traveling and gasoline."

For extra money in school, Ashley worked at a Goody's Family Clothing, while Chris worked on his family's farm. Both are still living at home, substitute teaching and continuing to work at their part-time jobs on the side.

"Looking back, I really think I did the right thing by living at home," Ashley said. "I still had a lot of freedom, could do what I want, but had less distractions, more space and, actually, it was more convenient for me."

Chris had a similar reply. "It has made an easier transition. I still have my parents to ask questions about taxes and to take messages for me if I need to sub for the next day. So now, I'm just getting up to go to school to teach instead of getting up to go to class."

Living situations are personal preferences; therefore, people should consider their own personalities and how they will mix with different circumstances before loading their suitcases.

For the most part, living away from home requires more motivation and added responsibility. It is, however, a fallacy that living at home hinders maturation and other qualities that make young adulthood memorable and transitional.

Chris Shriver is currently a substitute teacher for Monongalia County. He is shown above instructing a class as a student-teacher at Watson Elementary. *Photo Submitted By Chris Shriver*

Lights, Camera, Action

By: Jaimie Mayhorn

The School of Fine Arts had quite a busy year. If you have ever walked into Wallman Hall, you will notice that there is always something going on. Whether it be the theatre department performing a play, an artist showcasing their works in the gallery, or the music department putting on one of their concerts, there seems to be something eccentric and exciting to catch your eyes and ears.

The 2006-2007 academic year for the fine arts department was loaded with events that many people could enjoy. The Masquers put on shows such as *Lystitrata*, *Oliver!*, *Sense of Place*, and *Merchant of Venice*.

Not only did the theatre department entertain the students and public, but the arts department displayed drawings, paintings, and structures. The gallery on the fourth floor of Wallman Hall was always occupied with beautiful pieces of art. The art came from well-known artists and Fairmont State students.

There are many talented students who have taken fine arts as a major. Daniel Crowley, a sophomore theatre major, has been a part of the department for nearly two years.

Crowley said, "I really think Fairmont State

has a great arts department. The theatre department puts on some great shows, and I have made some great friends while I've been here."

Additional information, including a calendar of events and the fine arts newsletter, the *Tatler*, can be found on the Fairmont State website at http://www.fairmontstate.edu/academic/SchoolofFineArts.



A performer for Ricardo Lemvo an Makina Loca plays the trumpet in a concert in Colebank Gym. *Photo By Rachel Skubis*



Steve Smigocki's oil painting is displayed during the Fine Arts Convocation in the Wallman Theatre.

Photo By Rachel Skubis

Teaching and Learning By: Jaimie Mayhorn

Whenever you walk around campus, you will definitely notice the diversity of students. For example, there are the artists and the over-achievers as well as those with school spirit or those who are

also teachers here at the college. At

first it may be hard to fathom

hat your teachers could also be students just as

you are.

Carla Witt Ford, who teaches Basic Photography and Advanced Digital Photography, is one of the teachers on campus hat is also a student nere. She has taught

at Fairmont State for five years, and she has been a student for three semesters and one semester of summer classes. In the spring semester of 2007, she took Introduction to Geography, Animation Studio III, Computer Concepts, and Introduction to Literature II: Poetry.

Carla commented on how it feels to be both a teacher and a student, "It's a challenge, especially when you may be taking some of the same classes that a few of your students are taking. It is nice to see the 'college world' through their eyes. I can see what gets their attention and what puts them to sleep. I think that if the instructor loves what they are teaching; it shows, making the subject more interesting for the student and giving a feeling of accomplishment for the instructor."

So, how does she balance out plans for classes with her studies? She explains, "I try to fill up my Tuesdays and Thursdays with classes during the day because I usually teach on those evenings, so that means I'm on campus 12 hours those days. I also teach on Monday nights so I study/prepare Monday and Wednesday during the day and finish up on Friday so I can spend time with my husband

and daughter on the weekends."

Carla sees the positives of being both a teacher and student as getting the chance to learn something new and to see a different view and evoke curiosity and interest. She also notes the negatives of being a student and teacher by stating, "There are plenty of frustrations and time constraints. I worry about how much time I put

> in at FSU versus my family time. As a nontraditional student, I have lived through

or with many of the topics/subject areas that are covered in some of the classes, so it becomes very monotonous to 'learn' about them again in class."

> Carla Witt Ford reviews some photos with Katelyn DeWitt in her Advanced Digital Photography class. Photo By Jaimie Mayhorn

A professional photographer and digital artist, Carla spends her days as a mother, teacher, and student. Her website, http://www. wvphotographer.com, features some of her exquisite work. Photo By Carla Witt Ford



Lecture Series: Cultural and Political Awareness

By: Rachel Skubis

Juan Williams, one of America's leading journalists, spoke at Fairmont State on October 25th, 2006. He is the author of Thurgood Marshall: American Revolutionary and Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965. An employee at *The Washington Post* for twenty-one years, he held the positions of an editorial writer, op-ed columnist, and White House reporter. In his lecture, he described patterns in American culture that are bringing people down and increasing the class divide.

Reasons for the division, Williams said, are "self-defeating behavior," "self-victimization," and "looking for excuses for failing." Using

the examples of the school dropout rate, welfare, and crime as indicators of a social decline, he said that Americans need to respond with

a new level of

attention to defy the status quo.

Some statistics in his lecture included the number of children born to single mother—fifty percent

Hispanic and seventy percent

African American. Another set of statistics included the percentages of particular races who are incarnated in jail—forty percent African American and twenty-five percent Hispanic. He also mentioned that there is a twenty-five percent overall dropout rate in public schools. This disproportion, he stated, calls for a needed change in our compassion. He said that we must identify "who is in need" and "who is left behind" to make a difference for the better.

Believing that change is only possible by engaging the debate and conversation, Williams said that there must be a collaboration of people to promote the power of ideas. He also reminded his audience that it is important to know what undermines us and to be politically conscious. "You can make a difference," he reassured.

His lecture concluded in questions from the audience, where he mentioned that the upcoming 2008 election will be all about change. He asked the audience to see above commercialism and materialism, as well as see beyond the "last-minute"

dirt" featured in campaigns. He encouraged everyone to put out their own messages and be hopeful.

Reaching upon an essential "willingness in the American spirit" to defeat a "self-defeating, paralyzing culture," Williams advocates an age of change and a capacity to succeed. He stated, "The future will go to those who find a way to go through the door of

Photo By Rachel Skubis

opportunity."

To the right:

Dr. Randall Pinkett spoke at FSU on February 17, 2007. He is the president and CEO of BCT Partners.

Jeanette Walls, who appears on MSNBC three mornings a week, spoke at FSU on March 5, 2007.

Ha Jin, a professor at Boston University, spoke at FSU on April 2, 2007.



Anti-racist writer and activist Tim Wise spoke at FSU on September 11, 2006.

Photo By Rachel Skubis

Donna Brazille, a political activist and strategist for the Democratic Party, spoke at FSU on November 13, 2006. *Photo By Rachel Skubis* "Education is about exposure. The more you learn about other things, especially if they are different than what you are used to, the more you learn about yourself. Life is about finding out who you are. It is critical that our students get more than just a diploma. We want them to get an education. It is important to know what is going on in the world and to hear diverse opinions. Therefore, the lecture series is a co-curriculum event that we hope enhances the students' education."

- Michael Belmear, Vice President of Student Affairs









OCCUPATIONAL NETWORKS

By: Rachel Skubis



Brittany Vincent, Kelly Powell, and Kuirsta Stieg are servers at Cracker Barrell in Fairmont. Vincent is a freshman nursing major; Powell is a senior special education major; and Stieg is a senior elementary education major. In May of 2007, Vincent was only in her third week of work, while Powell had worked at the restaurant for a year and Stief two years.

Photo By Rachel Skubis



Brian Hobbs (senior political science and IRA major), Chelsea Ice (freshman pre-nursing major), Clint (Tex) Shipman (junior accounting major), Ashley Curry (freshman pre-pharmacy major), and Brittany Stout (senior biology and general science education major) stop for a chat during their shift at Valley Worlds of Fun, a popular family-entertainment establishment in Fairmont. *Photo By Rachel Skubis*

Part of what makes Fairmont State so connected is that it is in a small town, where working with classmates outside of school is not an unlikely circumstance. Most students discover that getting a new job in town either means receiving new acquaintances on campus or further developing ones that are already established.

English major Brionna Harvey worked at Valley Worlds of Fun with about ten other Fairmont State students. One of her coworkers was Alana Hawkins, who is majoring in English and physical education. Harvey said that

she often bumped into her

coworkers on campus, where they got to exchange a

"hello" while on their way to class.

Hawkins, on

the other hand, did not see her coworkers as often on campus. "We are

completely different majors," she mentioned.

Although many of her coworkers also attended

Fairmont State, she found that the rush of

school and work interfered

with any firm social life at the school itself. She said, "Off campus, I have more of a social group to hang around, especially during the

summer. Fairmont State has a lot of people that leave to go home for the entire summer, so I am

happy to have friends that stay."

A few miles from Valley Worlds of Fun is the Tygart Valley Cinemas, another business where many Fairmont States students work together.

Rebecca Fulaytar is a junior who has an associate's degree in early childhood and is now

working toward a pre-vet technician degree. She has been working at Tygart Valley Cinemas for about four years. Her coworker, Lindsey Colelli, also has been at the movie theater for roughly four years. "We are like sisters," Fulaytar mentioned.

Colelli agreed, "We are just like a family. We talk to each other in and out of work."

She also joked, "We all smell like popcorn together!"

Another associate of Tygart Valley Cinemas, Steven Cantrell, has been at the movies for eight years. When asked why he has worked there for so long, he simply replied, "I love free movies!"

> Amanda Stanley, a senior with a major in early childhood, also works behind-the-scenes

> > of the Fairmont movieviewing experience.

> > > She has been at the

movie theater for two years. She said, "I knew some of the girls from school before I started working there. Working with them has helped to strengthen our

friendships more

than anything. It is nice having people to eat lunch with or take classes with that you actually know outside of school

and in a work atmosphere."

Students who work together get to know one another on academic, business, personal, and social levels. Occupations and relationships converge, widening connections for studentcoworkers outside the boundaries of the traditional college campus.

Senior Lindsey Colelli, freshman Stacey Merrifield, and junior Rebecca Fulayter prepare refreshments at Tygart Valley Cinemas. Photo By Rachel Skubis

home Sweet home

By: Brittany Stewart

The first home away from home is a landmark of independence in most college students' lives. This scary but exciting transition can often be a positive life-changing experience. Dorm living serves as a stepping stone to individuality, patience, and sometimes even lifelong friendships.

Fairmont State's Director of Residence Life, Dan Gockley, said, "There are tremendous lessons to be learned from living on campus. It helps students start to take individual responsibility for their lives."

There is also the advantage of a good location, eliminating the everyday struggle of getting up early to beat traffic and the neverending fight for a parking spot. Bryant Place accommodates students with luxuries, such as a kitchen at the end of each hallway, two laundry rooms, lounges on each floor, and a computer

lab. From a student's standpoint, however,
responsibility and independence may
be overshadowed by other everyday
adjustments of dorm life. With
the next person often in
shouting distance or even
closer, students learn how
to accept and deal with all
types of people.
"Sharing a room

"Sharing a room with someone really makes you develop a bond with that person," said sophomore Jamie Crosby, a business major. "Some of the best relationships I have formed began while living in the dorms."

Whether looking for convenience or companionship, students found it in the dorms at Fairmont State University.

Heather Yoder reviews her tuition online in her dorm room on the first floor of Bryant Place. *Photo By Rachel Skubis*



Aiko Sato, a general business and managment major, and her roomate Ikue Azuhata, a diverse studies major, do their first load of laundry in Byrant Place during the 2007 summer semester. They both transferred to Fairmont State from a college in Tokyo, Japan, where they passed a test in order to attend a university in America. *Photo By Rachel Skubis*



PRICHARD



Not even rain stops these summer RAs of Bryant Place from a barbeque before the summer semester kicked off in May 2007. Pictured from left to right are Tiffany Bright (junior nursing major), Travis Reed (senior architecture major), Joey Salentro (senior speech communications major), Kyle Johns (junior human resource management major), Heather Yoder (junior elementary education major), and Chris Sedlacek (junior biology major). *Photo By Rachel Skubis*

CULLULE MARKET

By: Rachel Skubis

Construction on Fairmont State's campus is a continuous process throughout the semesters. In the 2006-2007 school year, it was impossible to avoid the intrusive and boisterous noises of hardware near Wallman Hall or the sizeable segments of grassless ground outside the Falcon Center.

According to Larry Lawrence, Assistant Vice President for Facilities and Capital Projects, all changes on campus are part of the university's Master Plan. This Master Plan outlines campus changes over the next five years.

Basic changes include better access to and from the campus. Other basic changes include gathering places for students, such as the green space between Jaynes Hall and the Student Activities Center and inner-campus spaces behind Hardway Hall and near Hunt Haught Hall. These inner-campus changes began in May of 2007 and are expected to be completed by the fall. Mr. Lawrence also said that the concrete walks and landscaping efforts at various locations around campus are part of the Master Plan.

As for new facilities, the Engineering Technology building is currently being constructed. In time, a performance arts building will get underway as well. Although the Student Activities Center was open in 2005, conference rooms, board rooms, and classrooms in the 2006/2007 fiscal year were still under construction. Design work for the installation of an elevation at the Feaster Center was completed in the spring of 2007. This elevator is planned to open in the fall.

By December of 2006, renovations to the Library and second and third floors of Colebank Hall were completed. Luckily for 2007 graduates and their families and guests, air conditioning was installed in the Joe Retton Arena just in time for Spring Commencement. During the summer of

2007, the lower practice field was enlarged and received new lighting.

Many students were surprised that the parking garage was completely full at certain times of the day, and additional parking lots complimented the increased enrollment of students. Demolishing structures along Locust Avenue in the fall of 2006 allowed for additional parking for faculty, staff, and students. The Kennedy Barn will be renovated to become the Folk Life Center. Also, a new hangar was constructed at the Robert C. Byrd National Aerospace and Education Center in 2006.

"The summer of 2007 witnessed many changes to benefit the campus," stated Mr.
Lawrence. After the Engineering Technology building is completed, the Turley Center will be used as a facility for classes. The Duvall-Rosier Field was resurfaced with synthetic turf. In late April, there were discussions and preliminary design work for more parking places at several sites near the Feaster Center and a shared parking facility with the hospital. Office space and storage were also added to Colebank Hall, the Education Building, and the Falcon Center.

By the beginning of summer, a fresh green lawn finally grew outside of the Falcon Center. The additions to the Engineering Technology building, which began in the summer of 2006, are planned to open for classes in January of 2008. Given time, the disruptive evidence of seeming disorganization will give way to a more functional and charming campus.



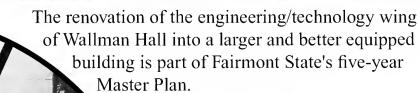


Photo By Rachel Skubis

A construction worker welds metallic parts on the end of Wallman Hall.

Photo By Sarah Mauller

Hanging with the In Crowd By: Ally Chichester

Delta Zeta, Tau Beta Iota, Sigma Tau Gamma, Alpha Sigma Tau, Sigma Sigma Sigma, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Phi Sigma Phi, and Delta Xi Omicron are the names that first come to mind when you think of Fairmont State Greek Life. Many wonder what the reason could be why a person would want to join a sorority or fraternity. When the word sorority or fraternity is brought up many think of drama, parties, and absolute pointlessness.

But to others Greek Life is so much more than stereotypical. Ask any active member and they will tell you that being Greek has made them the person they are today. "Being a member of Delta Zeta has forever changed me for the better. Not only have I formed an unforgettable bond with my sisters, but my entire Greek family. I have met so many people through Greek life who are all different and have made a positive impact in my life. I will take everything I have learned from these extraordinary people and carry it with me throughout my life," said Kristen Frodelius, a senior fashion design major.

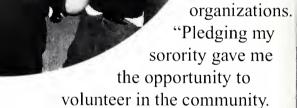
Not only are everlasting bonds of friendship formed with members of your own group but also with members of other Greek organizations. Being a member of Greek life is similar to a big family with many brothers and sisters.

During the pledging process, dignity, discipline, and respect are achieved by proving your worthiness of being a member. Many traditional tasks such as getting up early to paint "the bell" are among the agenda while pledging. If a member chooses to run for an executive board position within their organization, it gives an opportunity to be very involved and earn responsibility at the same time.

An aspect that is very important to Greek organizations is helping and being involved in the community. Philanthropy projects such as canned food and clothing drives are held every month for the soup opera and union mission. Other events such as Delta Zeta's Turtle Trot

> for the speech and hearing impaired

are held to benefit the



Being new to Fairmont, I didn't know how to be more active in helping the less fortunate. The older girls in the sorority already knew how to do so and I learned from them. In addition, my organization has given me motivation to manage my time in a way so that I have time to go to events on campus and mingle with other students," said senior speech communications and journalism major, Lisa Respole.

Sororities and Fraternities are also very involved with each other. There are many opportunities to interact and mingle. During the events of homecoming week, sororities team up with their favorite fraternity to build a float and compete against other teams. Themed socials are also held every month to promote unity among brothers and sisters.

To the left, members of Tau Beta Iota and Sigma Sigma Sigma party at the "blue/gray" theme social. Photo Submitted By Ally Chichester

Member of Sigma Tau Gamma stop for a shot in the Nickel during Greek Week, 2007. *Photo Submitted By Michele Nabers*



Delta Zeta sorority members pose for a picture at the Fall Rush Party. Photo Submitted By Ally Chichester

GRADUATION

FALL 2006

By: Chrystal Beachler

Well, it's that time of year again! No, I don't mean Christmas shopping, I mean December graduation at Fairmont State University. It is during this time of year when students graduate and prepare for entry into the real world of work and responsibility.

For students, the graduation process starts long before the march down the isle to receive a diploma. For many, it starts one year before graduation with a degree audit.

According to Maria Rose, vice president of ACAD Services, "Doing a degree audit a year in advance ensures students will graduate on time by letting them know what classes they might still need to take to graduate."

In addition, Rose says, "The major problem students encounter when trying to graduate is that they find out too late that they either do not have enough hours or are missing some important classes and end up staying an extra semester."

If everything on a degree audit checks out, and it looks like the student will graduate, the next step is to visit career services.

Career services is offered by Fairmont State to help graduates build resumes and portfolios, set up mock interviews, and find a job.

"Students can upload their resume on the Fairmont State website, where local employers can search for possible employees. Since West Virginia does not have a big job presence on the internet job searches such as Monstet.com, this is a good way for students to find jobs that are local," said Sally Fry, director of student development at career services.

Career services also host two job fairs, one for all students and one specifically for teachers.

Some major concerns from students that Fry hears is, "Will I find a job that I like or will I find a well-paying job?"

"Before choosing a major, research the market value on the career you are thinking about pursuing and also keep in mind whether you are willing to relocate to where the job is. Also keep in mind there is no average of time from when a student graduates to when they land a job," Fry suggested. "Some students take time off, some continue work at jobs they already have until a good opportunity comes along, and some have a job line up before they even graduate. It just depends on what your situation is."

Liz Urse, a December graduate who has been a student for six and half years, also had

concerns about finding a good job. Urse graduated with a double major in bachelors of science degree in art and family consumer science. She planned to stay in West Virginia and substituteteach until a secure teaching position opened.

"Before graduating, I had to prepare a portfolio, resume, reference letters, and go through exit counseling for paying back my student loans," Urse

said.

In addition, Fry encourages students to keep portfolios of their work, even if they are not art majors.

"By saving samples of your work, it proves to employers what you are capable of doing," Fry said.

SPRING 2007

On Saturday, May 12, 2007, the college clock ame to a close for many Fairmont State students. the countdown began with Spring Commencement 10 a.m. Saturday at the Feaster Center after a landatory rehearsal at 6:15 p.m. Friday.

For many upcoming graduates, the last few ays were spent in absolute anticipation, as they nally wrapped up years of hard work and bid adieu the routine of courses and campus activities.

Adam Bowers, an English education and library science major, attended Fairmont State for the past four years. He said the last couple of weeks have been only mildly stressful on him.

"I am only stressed about my impending education

ortfolio. Other than that, I'm looking forward golfing on sunny days," he said, referring to a seling of retirement from his college career.

Concluding his education as a student-teacher East Fairmont High School, Bowers was proud of as accomplishments and was surprised at the rapid ace of his college life.

"Graduation has come unbelievably quick. feel as though — as cliché as it is — I was just a eshman walking into my first English class," he explained. "I'm extremely excited for the future, and I cannot wait to start the next chapter of my fe."

Jared St. Martin Brown, a English and journalism ducation major, was confident a entering the opportunities that its certification and diploma could provide him. He planned of find a full-time teaching career. ventually, he would also like to

tend graduate school and acquire a doctorate in ducation.

Brown was a volunteer in the military and attended Americoba Community College part time for roughly two years in Arizona. After attending FSU for four years, he said, "I feel like I got a real education here, and I learned exactly what I wanted to learn. I liked every single English professor I had. They were very outstanding. That is the thing that made me stay."

Ekue Bright Adamah-Biassi, a major in psychology and chemistry, was optimistic about moving to California to attend Loma Linda University in the fall. Looking back on his three years at Fairmont State, he reminisced, "I made some good friends, and I'm going to miss them."

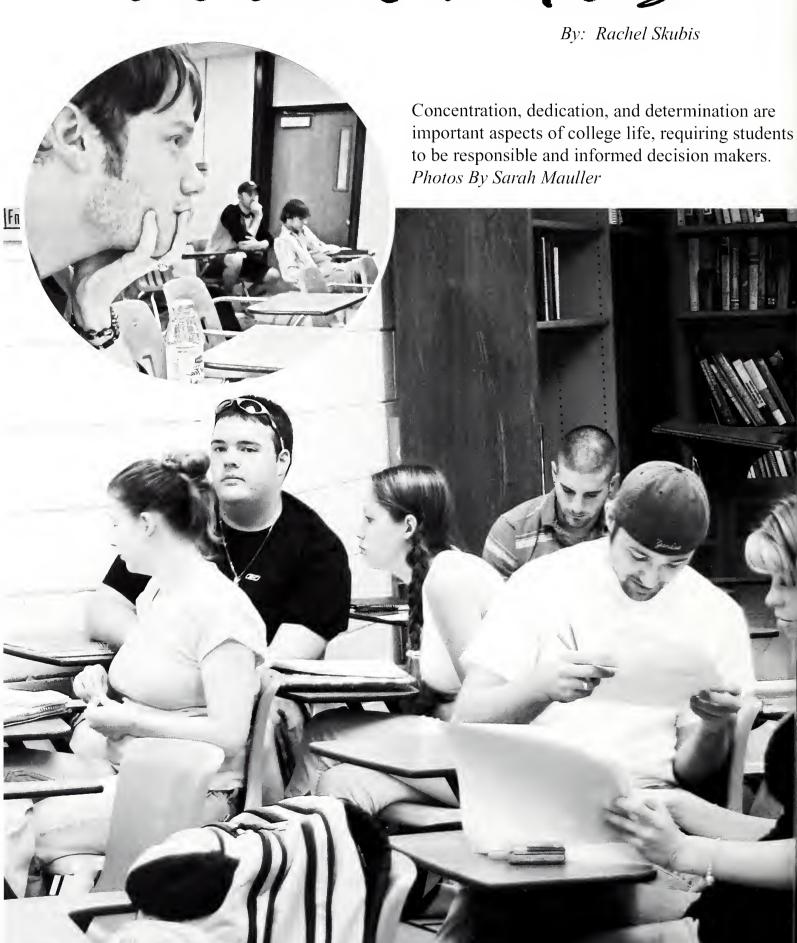


Another graduate, Mayu Tokunaga, was a college student for five years. She hoped to search for an occupation, but first, she anticipated a break from her current mental exhaustion. She explained, "I'm tired of studying."

False impressions set aside, there is in fact "light at the end of the tunnel," and these and other Fairmont State graduates welcomed a revitalized illumination from at last receiving this long-sought glow. School days may be over, but learning will never stop, as Brown concluded, "A part of me will always stay in school."

Last-minute obligations were completed, and the search for a full-time career subsequently began. A congratulatory applause went out to these and other Fairmont State graduates for their success at meeting Fairmont State's core values: SOAR (scholarship, opportunity, achievement, and responsibility).

academics





Fairmont State Academics range greatly according to discipline and degree, providing students with a number of career opportunities. The schools and colleges of Fairmont State University and the schools of Pierpont Community and Technical College include the following options: Liberal Arts; Science and Technology; Business; Education; Fine Arts; Nursing and Allied Health Administration; General Studies; Academic Studies; Business, Aviation, and Technology; Health Careers; Human Services; Non-Credit Training Programs; and Community Education. All academic departments are connected with a dedication and commitment to assist students in accomplishing their goals.

Along with courses, many newsworthy events connected the departments with pride and achievement. FSU welcomed 17 new faculty members and two new deans. Pierpont Community and Technical College welcomed seven new faculty members. The college also received a new branch center located at Braxton County High School in Flatwoods.

Alumni Frank and Jane Gabor of Baltimore, made a \$500,000 donation to the Fairmont State Foundation, which will be used to restore the Kennedy barn to become the Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center. The Folklife Center also sponsored an Italy Tour.

FSU received three awards from the WV Expanded Program to Stimulate Competitive Research Grants Program. Also, the first annual Celebration of Student Scholarship occurred on April 18 in the Falcon Center Conference Rooms. The event showcased work of students in various disciplines and recognized faculty members for their professional guidance.

For more academic news and honors, students can visit the Fairmont State website and scroll through "Academic Highlights" at the following address: http://www.fairmontstate.edu/academics.

School of Liberal Arts

History

By: Crystal Beachler

Who are we and where have we been? Where are we going? These are questions that can be answered by looking at our history. By learning about the past and examining human behavior and existence, we can shape our future and avoid repeating the mistakes of our forefathers.

Gerald Bobango, assistant professor of history, believes, "that one does not study the history of man, does not know his or herself or his or her environment." In addition, "To not know mankind's past is to always remain a child."

The students at Fairmont State University in

about the past have two choices. The Bachelor of Arts Degree has its emphasis on language skills through foreign language, which is excellent

the history program who seek to learn

which is excellent for those students considering postgraduate studies. The Bachelor of Science Degree deals with the students' skills in statistics and computer sciences, which is great for those who want a modern social

science approach to analyzing

Graduates can pursue careers that may lead them to teaching history or writing about it. Other job possibilities could lead to public history such as consulting, archiving or publishing documentary films and other documents. The history degree is also handy for anyone who chooses to pursue careers in law and government.

Bobango, who worked 12 years as prosecuting lawyer for Marion and Harrison Counties, said what was rewarding about the job was "putting away bad guys, such as drug-dealers, and working in domestic abuse cases."

He also said that positive points about the program "are the Senior Seminar, the trips the students get to take to various historical sites, and the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society Club."

Some things that could improve the history program is more faculty to teach different classes, such as the history of Latin America and women's history and to see students no depend so much on the computer for researching sources, since legitimacy is hard to determine. However,

some of the most important classes include American history of

the constitution. Students should know how the U.S.

government works as well as its foundations,

according to Bobango.

He also said one of the most rewarding parts of his job is, "seeing the light bulbs come on in the students' minds when they come to understand history and seeing them during their student-teaching doing the same for their students."

Greg Phelps looks at historical artifacts from the day of the frontier at Fort Pitt in Pittsburgh, PA during a Learning Communities field trip. The field trip was taken for the course The Early American Experience, taught by Dr. Matthews and Dr. Bobango.

Photo By Sarah Mauller

history.

Language and Literature

By: Laura Arevalo

Reading, writing, and problem-solving are essential skills for college students, but the nurturing and enhancement of those skills is crucial as a student in the Language and Literature Department. It is the continuing goal of its staff.

Whether English, English education, Spanish, French majors, or a minor in journalism and folk life studies, students who choose a course of study in the liberal arts field will be well equipped and adequately prepared for professional success.



has hand picked many of the exceptional faculty members who are in the Language and Literature Department.

"They are all excellent scholars and toachers'

Dr. Martin Bond, the Dean of Liberal Arts,

"They are all excellent scholars and teachers," Dr. Bond stated. "They are my pride."

He is certain that Fairmont State University students are receiving a first-rate education from top-notch professors.

"Students obtaining a degree in English have an opportunity to develop an excellent background for professional school, graduate studies, and any number of professional fields," Dr. Bond concluded.

Dr. Rhonda Sanford, who has served as Chair of the Language and Literature Department for the past four years, describes the department and it's faculty as being very collegial.

"The faculty is always busy keeping current with scholarships, editing, publishing, and presenting work," Dr. Sanford said.

Dr. Sanford has also contributed to the department in bringing the highly acclaimed Black Friars Residency to Fairmont State, and she spearheaded the search for the newest edition to the department, the new French professor, Erin Hippolyte.

David Shreve, a senior English major, is confident he is being prepared both academically and professionally for any career field he may choose after graduation. Shreve's attributes his positive experience at FSU to the faculty and staff.

"The faculty is very personable and approachable. Because of the interpersonal relationship available among the faculty, which is comprised of interesting individuals, it is hard not to be successful," Shreve stated.

Shreve finds the diverse range of courses and intense course curriculums to be a contributing factor in preparing him academically for the future.

Dr. Donna Long, who has been at FSU since 1999, teaches a Writing Poetry class in the spring semester. Dr. Long also instructs Creative Writing and Seventeenth Century British Literature classes. *Photo By Sarah Mauller*

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

By: Lewis Summers

In the field of science and technology, people are trained in science, math, and civil engineering. Once obtaining a degree, graduates can get governmental positions and surveying, architecture, and construction occupations. Civil engineering is just one of the many degrees in the Technology Department.

Amber Marks, a math education major, plans to use her degree from Fairmont State to eventually get a teaching job. She hopes to teach algebra or geometry at a high school in Nacogdoches, Texas, where she attended school.

Along with a math major, science has many degrees as well, the most prominent one being biology.

As far as careers go, a biology degree can lead to teaching and computer management

and computer management positions as long as it is followed up with a study in business. A math degree can lead into a career in the US Navy, US Census Bureau, banking, and manufacturing.

BA and BS degrees are both open in biology. The math department offers a BA degree, and

civil engineering offers an Associate of Science and Bachelor of Science Degrees.

When looking into the School of Science and Technology, "much stands out this year," Steven Roof, the interim dean, said. Roof has been working for thirteen years in the biology department. Approximately 800 students were enrolled in the School of Science and Technology in the spring semester. When asked about thing that stood out in the spring, Roof said that he was impressed with the students, who were putting in the effort to produce excellent academic work. Students got to present some of their work at the West Virginia Academy of Science. Students also

attended a celebration of student scholarships. Fairmont State also had a group of students enter in the concrete canoe compaction. They did well in the regional competition and went to the national level.

Information about the programs can be found on the Fairmont State homepage. Also found on the site is a newsletter that the Science and Technology department puts out each year. The newsletter has facts about the department and various things that will or have occurred, such as the

"Cross-Campus Collaboration Focuses on Obesity" and "Undergraduate

Research Grants."

A variety of rocks and minerals are displayed on the third floor of Hunt Haught Hall. Fairmont State offers physical geology and historical geology courses that have a lab component. *Photo By Rachel Skubis* Students in Dr. Harry Baxter's Chemistry II course listen attentively as he goes over the answers to an exam.

Photo By Sarah Mauller



Instructor Dwight Harris instructs Introduction to Physics I as students take notes. *Photo By Rachel Skubis*

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

By: Domenica Conde

Plans for expansion of Fairmont State University's School of Business are coming into play as a new class is being offered to students.

Dr. Sunil Surendran, professor of marketing and management, taught the trial course entitled "Managing Business in Europe" for the spring 2007 semester.

Surendran has been teaching at Fairmont State since 1994 and has seen substantial growth within the business school and hopes to see it continue further. In his 12 years of teaching, he has

seen enrollment increase and changes in curriculum but is working even harder toward a stronger program to provide a broader education for business students.

An international business course is required for business school graduates due to many companies requiring an international business

course completion before they will hire any graduate.

Surendran views his European business class as "a step further" in understanding the foreign marker and hopes success with this course will encourage more steps to take place. He is looking into other possible courses to enhance the program, such as Spanish and French-speaking business classes, but he recognizes these changes can only be made possible by student interest. So far, there has been a strong interest.

Another change Surendran wishes to work towards is a possible study abroad program due to the numerous students who have not had the opportunity to travel outside the Unites States. There are, however, some problems with this goal.

Working students find it difficult to leave behind jobs for lengthy amounts of time. Surendran, however, believes that "in order to appreciate our culture, we need to experience other cultures."

Currently, his focus is expanding the education offered in terms of understanding and appreciating foreign business.

"A businessman cannot ignore the foreign market," Surendran said. He stated that even West Virginia natives who have never passed the state line and graduate with a degree in business

cannot guarantee avoiding a foreign market.

According to Surendran, all major companies and manufacturers in the state are foreign, and possibility of working in or with a foreign market is very high.

Beyond gaining the required edge in the business world, the course will provide a deeper understanding of various

European customs and cultures, which are necessary to survive in the marker. He said that as part of the course, students will travel to Europe for a nineday tour of four countries—Holland, Belgium, France, and England—to experience the market and culture in person. The tour will take place over Spring Break. Before the trip, each student chooses two topics for research during the tour. Instead of simply working hard to "bring culture to the classroom," this course will be taking the student to the culture.

We can help put the pieces together
Information
Systems
Administration
Finance
Business
Education
Warketing
SCHOOL of BUSINESS & ECONOMICS
Fairmont State College

The success plaque and bulletin boards that highlight the School of Business are on the first floor of Jaynes Hall.

Photo By Rachel Skubis

Or. Mohamad Khalil instructs the Economic Principles/Problems I course during the first five weeks of the 2007 summer semester. *Photo By Rachel Skubis*



School of Education

By: Tara Green

Fairmont State University's School of Education works with students and faculty in order to prepare students to become effective and efficient teachers.

The School of Education tries to help young teachers grow in decision making, communication, and disposition skills in order to enhance their effect on other students.

This program offers various degrees, beginning with an undergraduate Bachelor's Degree in Education. The students can choose between Elementary Education and specializations for Secondary Education. Students who want to specialize in certain topics can pick from about 25 content areas. Students who want to increase their education can go into the Graduate Studies and earn a Master's of Arts in Teaching or a Master' of Arts in Education. The School of Education

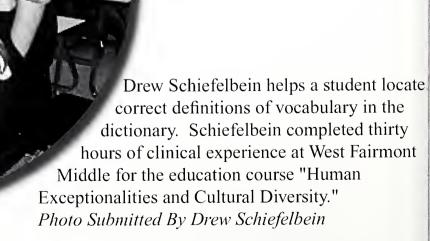
also offers certification programs for teachers who already have their degree in education but want to keep the knowledge updated.

This year the Dean of the School of Education, Dr. Van Dempsey, has worked with faculty members in order to make a smoother transition for undergraduate Bachelor's Degree students who want to enter into the Graduate Study Program. Dr. Van Dempsey also said Fairmont State's School of Education programs met the West Virginia Board of Education's standards for a proper teacher education program.

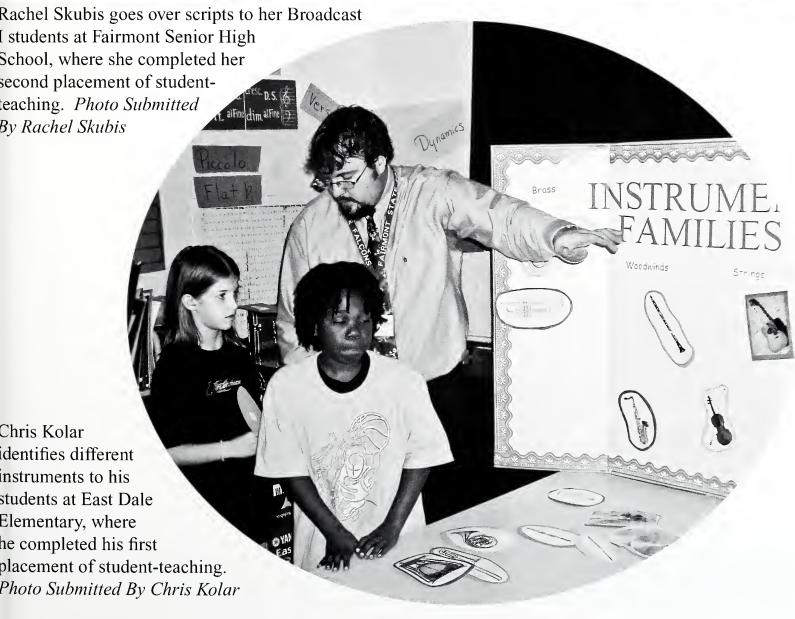
An Undergraduate BA Elementary Education student, Sarah Ervin, said, "By coming to the School of Education at Fairmont State University, I know that I am going to be more prepared for my teaching career, and the undergraduate program allows me to go into the school's earlier and more often than other universities."

All 350 students accepted into the School of Education are studying in the undergraduate Bachelor's Degree Program. About 150 students already have their undergraduate degree in teaching and strive for the Master's of Arts in Teaching or Education in the Graduate Studies Program.

The one thing about the School of Education at FSU that impressed Sarah this year was the amount of work that the curriculum has provided that will in turn help her in the field.







School of Fine Arts By: Joanna Aston

The School of Fine Arts offers a number of degree options. The school has three different departments- Art, Music, and the Department of Communication and Theatre. It offers several degrees within these departments.

The Art Department offers three options for students who are looking for a degree in Art. One of the degrees is art education which prepares students to teach art in public schools. Another degree is graphics/fine arts; this degree is a 2-plus-2 year program that is for students wishing to incorporate art in the fields of communication and commerce. This program is a joint degree with the Pierpont Community and Technical College. A new degree that is being offered is the studio art degree. This degree allows for complete focus in a particular studio area, such as painting or sculpting.

The Music Department offers a
BA degree in music and a degree in music
education. This program of study provides
a balance among music theory, applied music,
music history and methods classes, according to the
Fairmont State University website.

The Department of Communication and Theatre offers several degrees as well. One of these options is a degree in education specializing in oral communication. Another degree is speech communication which is a liberal arts degree that requires a minor that can be picked by the student. There are also degrees in theatre and theatre education. The theatre degree is a liberal arts degree which can be paired with any minor desired by the student. The theatre education degree does not require a minor.

"There needs to be more full time faculty who are professors in their discipline," said art professor Jennifer Boggess, when asked what improvements could be made to the School of Fine Arts.



Members of the Jazz Band play their instruments with musical flair at a concert in February 2007. The group is conducted by Dr. Valerie Huffman. *Photo Submitted By Chris Kolar*

The Brooks Gallery, located on the fourth floor of Wallman Hall, is open for art exhibits a majority of the school year. Here, Artist Kenneth Hassell's photography of Appalachian coal mining culture in the coal camp of Dante, Virginia are displayed during October 2006.

Photo By Rachel Skubis



Morgan Messenger gets prepared for her part as Nerissa in Shakespeare's play "The Merchant of Venice," held on April 19-22 and 26-28 of 2007 in the Wallman Hall Theatre. *Photo Submitted By Lisa Bennett*



Nursing and Allied Health

By: Amiee Kirk

This has been an eventful year for Fairmont State's Nursing and Allied Health Program. The program gained a new faculty member but lost a valued faculty member. There have also been improvements, additions, and awards presented throughout the program. FSU's nursing students and faculty have had their hands full.

The Nursing Program lost a prominent faculty member, Sharon Bond. Graduating from the University of New Mexico with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, she continued her education with two subsequent master's degrees in Tennessee and Mississippi. Bond also obtained a doctorate in nursing science from the University

of Alabama in

Birmingham.

Bond has taught at FSU since 1994. She taught the Associate Degree Program until 2004, when she was invited to become involved in the Baccalaureate Program of Nursing. In the fall of 2006, she and three other professors, Carolyn Crisplip-Tacy, Pam Huggins, and Ann Shaver, received a grant and presented a course titled "Obesity: A Nation at Risk."

The Faculty Recognition Award that Bond received this year will make for a bittersweet end to her career at Fairmont State. She and husband of 42 years, Dr. Martin Bond, will return to New Mexico, the place they first met.

As familiar faces leave the program, new faces arrive, including the Dean of Nursing in Allied Health. Beginning in June of 2006, Sharon Bond has experienced what she called a "learning year." When asked what advice she has for students pursuing a nursing degree, she wisely stated, "Students should enjoy college life and take advantage of not only what the nursing

program has to offer, but other areas as well." She further stated that it is important for the students,

especially those

who commute, to get involved in all areas of campus life in order to become more well rounded. The nursing students are definitely involved in campus and their community. This year Tina Arnold received the Outstanding Associate's Degree Award

Outstanding BSN Award. Students also traveled to Charleston to participate in the "Nurse Unity Day." Two nursing students, Renee Fox of Barrackville and Frank Wiechers of Germany, were featured in MODRN, a national magazine published by the Assessment Technologies Institute. Fox was featured in the November issue and Wiechers was

and Erin Duckworth received the

Vanessa Sypolt hangs an IV bag as part of her firstyear clinicals Photo By Mound Staff featured in the December issue of the magazine's regular column, "What It's Like."

Another monumental event for the nursing program was the starting of the Epsilon Delta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, an international honor society of nursing. The chapter inducted seven new numbers for its charter group.

In addition to new honor societies, new faculty, and new honors, the nursing program is also adding new degree programs. The accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program offers students a new option to the old course list. This accelerated program allows students to complete the BSN courses within one academic year. The traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Science in Allied Health Administration are also available.

The rewards for nursing students, however, go beyond the awards and titles. According to freshman nursing student Hanna Conley, "If I am able to help one child, or one family member, that would be worth everything. Knowing that I have the ability to provide healing to a sick child and comfort for the family gives me great joy, and I

thank God that I have the opportunity to do so."

Conley commented further that her most memorable experience in the nursing program thus far was during clinicals when she performed the seemingly simple task of rubbing lotion on a patient's feet. The patient thanked her enthusiastically, and the "look in her eye and the sincerity in her words made [her] entire day."

Good news for the nursing program does not end in the classroom. According to Boni, the program has a 100% placement rating in job within six months of graduation. "Graduates have consistently exceeded state and national passing rates on the national licensing exam for registered nurses and are in great demand by employers," according to nursing officials.

Andrea Maxwell inserts a breathing tube into a mannequin for her first-year clinicals. *Photo By Mound Staff*



Graduate Studies

By: Malorie Shriver

Fairmont State University of Graduate Studies saw a new degree added to its offerings during the 2006-2007 school year.

The Master's of Business Administration program made its debut at Fairmont State, drawing in 30 students and boosting overall enrollment in Graduate Studies to nearly 600 students each semester.

Students seeking an MBA can choose from two possible tracks—Project Management and Human Resource Management. Students who pursue Project Management can go on to work for almost any company or do government contracting, while graduates of Human Resource Management can find careers managing staff at any occupation.

Hanna Hern, a first-year student in the MBA program, feels that it offers students the necessary skills to succeed in any job they aspire to have.

"This program teaches a person such a wide variety of skills, techniques, and theories. A person could work almost anywhere with an MBA," Hern said.

Dr. Richard Harvey, Deane of Graduate Studies at Fairmont State, said that the MBA program's first year was a success.

"We haven't even advertised the program yet, and we already have 40 student registered for next semester. All of the students seem very happy," Harvey said.

The MBA program is not the only one that has seen success so far. According to Harvey, the Department of Graduate Studies has grown every year since its formation in 2003. The department has improved its admissions procedures, policy issues, and student support services, but Harvey attributes most of the success to the course schedule, which is set up to accommodate students who have jobs. Students are encouraged to continue to work while earning their graduate degree.

"Our programs are designed for people with careers. Most of our classes are taught at night or online so students can continue to work," Harvey said.

Hern takes advantage of the flexible class schedule by working as a Graduate Assistant on campus for Robin Yeager, Director of the Student Activities Center.

"A Graduate Assistant position pays my tuition and gives me a stipend for school. This makes it much easier on me and my parents financially," Hern said.

The Graduate Studies Department has seen more than 60 students earn degrees in its five fields over the past four years, and Harvey believes that Graduate Studies at Fairmont State will grow rapidly as new programs are introduced.

"The increase we are seeing right now has been related to the new programs, but it will eventually level off," Harvey said.

According to Harvey, graduate degrees become more and more valuable each year. Students who graduate with a Master's degree are likely to earn twice as much money as those who have only a Bachelor's degree.

"Everyone has a Bachelor's degree. Master's degrees increase your earnings by giving you the kind of specialized knowledge that employers will pay for," Harvey said.

Currently Fairmont State offers a Master of Education, Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Science in Criminal Justice and Nursing, and Master of Business Administration. Starting in the fall of 2007, FSU will also offer a Human Services Management degree, which will draw from the MBA program and will help students who are interested in working with non-profit organizations.



The Who and What of Pierpont

By: Rachel Skubis

Formerly known as Fairmont State Community and Technical College since 1974,

Pierpont Community and
Technical College is a "different
name with the same quality
program," according to President
Blair Montgomery. Once
separately accredited, Fairmont
State University and Pierpont
Community and Technical



College are now combined while holding a fresh distinctiveness.

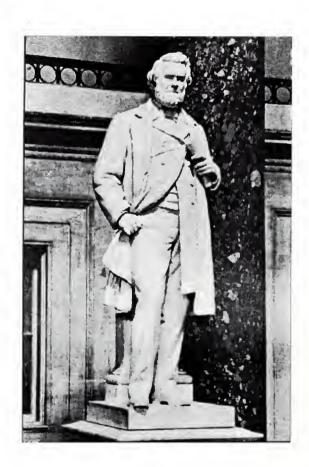
Members of the legislature mandated to change the name of the college due to extra expenditures, which, as Montgomery explained, "gave nothing more for students." The college offers developmental education, transfer work, work force development, community education, and skills training in other disciplines. Montgomery said that these programs give students the opportunity to achieve and be successful.

Montgomery said that Pierpont is the first community college in West Virginia to be named after a person and not a geographical area. A tanner, teacher, and lawyer, Francis H. Pierpont (1815-1899) played a significant role in the birth of West Virginia. In 1856, he was Commissioner of Schools for Marion County. Serving as Governor of Restored Virginia in 1862, West Virginia became the 35th state under his plan. He was a member of the WV Legislature and taught at Fairmont's first school for African Americans in 1869 and also served on the first Board of the institution that later became FSU. Pierpont is honored today as the "Father of West Virginia," a title accepted by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

According to Montgomery, Pierpont Community and Technical College offers two-year programs which are shorter than the University's BA degrees but are not any easier. Community colleges are different from universities in that they are practical rather than theoretical in nature. "While universities stress the why, community colleges stress the how," Montgomery said, "which is needed to get a job."

Along with degree programs, Pierpont also offers skill-sets, or units of content, which are open to both students and the community. Montgomery added, "These programs help make participants more employable."

Additional information on Pierpont's available programs can be found on the Fairmont State website at http://www.fairmontstate.edu/academics.



The Pierpont Statue stands in the United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. From PC&TC Pamphlet, Robert Heffner; Jr. and JoAnn Lough

The United States and West Virginia flags wave in the summer breeze as a symbol of opportunity and freedom. Francis Pierpont is honored today as the "Father of West Virginia." *Photo By Rachel Skubis*

Pierpont Community & Technical College

Fairmont's FRANCIS ("FRANK") HARRISON PIERPONT 1814-1899 "The Father of West Virginia"

It was his plan that gave birth to West Virginia. The words were his that persuaded President Lincoln to accept these Mountaineers into the Union.



Francis ("Frank") Harrison Pierpont (1814-1899)



Julia Augusta Robertson Pierpont (1828-1886)

Pierpont Community & Technical College, a division of Fairmont State University, is named in honor of Francis Harrison Pierpont, the Governor of Restored Virginia (1862-1868), and his wife Julia Augusta Robertson Pierpont.



Fairmont State Community and Technical College received the new name, Pierpont Community and Technical College, in August of 2006. This pamphlet, available to people on campus, was an interesting collection of information that highlighted Francis H. Pierpont's history. From PC&TC Pamphlet, Robert Heffner, Jr. and JoAnn Lough

Academics Studies

By: Mohamed Kamara

When a high school student finally walks across that stage and receives his or her degree, there are many things going through his or her mind at that moment. Rest assured though, there at least one of two definite thoughts going through that high school student's mind if he or she is wondering what it is going to be like to go to college. For

some students, a solid plan for the

future is not all there, and for students like that, the School

of Academic Studies would work perfectly.

Pierpont
Community and
Technical College at
Fairmont State, which

houses the School of Academic Studies,

offers numerous two-

year degrees such an American Sign Language

Communication Certificate, an interpreter training

an interpreter training program, and a pre-social work

concentration of liberal studies. This

pre-social work concentration provides the basis for the first two years of a two-plus-two agreement in social work between Pierpont Community and

Technical College and West Virginia University.

Jean Bolyard, Dean of the School of Academic Studies, said, "Our main goal is to dedicate ourselves to the student's success by not only teaching, but also counseling and advising the students. We have to be teachers first and foremost."

This program is useful to students who need to gain entrance to a professional and technical occupation that may require applicants to complete at least two years of college work before being accepted. This program gives students a chance to complete a two-year degree before actually planning their specific career objectives. It also gives them

the option to continue on or transfer into a four year degree program.

In the past 10-15 years, the community college at Fairmont State has evolved, and the department leaders feel like the sky's the limit. The plans are to continually help students achieve as much as possible and to aim high expectations.

Bolyard said she feels the school

will only evolve as much as the students do. If that is the case, at the rate students are evolving nowadays, the School of Academic

Studies may end up being bigger than WVU.

Instructor Ruby Losh sits in her office as she conducts Deaf Culture and History through the Virtual On-Line Campus.

Photo By Mound Staff

Tutoring is available to all Fairmont State students through Tutorial Services in 207 Jaynes Hall. *Photo By Rachel Skubis*





SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, AVIATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

By: Crystal Beachler

Perched across the runway at the Marion Harrison Regional Airport, the Robert C. Byrd National Aerospace Education Center sees on average 119 planes come and go, according to AirNay information.

But to the students of the Robert C. Byrd National Aerospace Education Center, the opportunity to do more than just watching planes landing and taking off presents itself in hands-on training.

Shawn Crosby, a student in the aviation program, says he "likes the aviation maintenance program because it gives students a start in the aviation field. Each student learns a variety of important technical producers that are needed in today's aviation industry. From familiarization of the aircraft, how certain parts function throughout the aircraft's operation, and how to troubleshoot each part to discover why it possible failed."

The Robert C. Byrd National Aerospace Education Center and program has been at the airport for 14 years and has about 95 students enrolled in their program. The students are broken up into different studies, such as flight for students who want to become pilots, aviation management, avionics technicians and general aviation.

The school offers an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Aviation Maintenance Technology and an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Airframe and Aerospace Electronics Technology. If students choose, they may progress onto a 2+2 program Bachelor of Science Degree in Aviation Maintenance Management, Airframe and Avionics, Administration, and Flight. With completion of a two-year degree, students can take the FAA written, oral and practical exams to become A&P certified according to Brad Gilbert, professor of aviation at the school.

Gilbert said, "One of the most positive points about the program is the amount of student-instructor interaction. With the small classes, professors are easily able to help students who need it."

Other positives about the program are the good equipment for training, such as helicopters and piston planes for students to practice. Also, students learn solid mechanical and technical skills. The aviation program is constantly changing and adapting, but one thing would improve the school is industry support.

"Companies need students that have degrees and the skills necessary for the aviation industry, so companies get graduates and schools get support from the companies who donate technology or planes to aid in the education of future students," Gilbert said.

The classes teach students to inspect, service, maintain, troubleshoot, and repair airframes, power plants, and their related mechanical and electrical systems. These are skills students need to know to work in the day-to-day operations and function in major and regional airports. The abilities of graduates is not only limited to the planes themselves but into other areas such as major maintenance base operations and airline maintenance operations; aircraft, power plant and component manufacturing operations; corporate aviation operations, armed forces flight operations; and small aircraft general aviation fixed base maintenance operations.

The career opportunities for graduates are endless with jobs in major airlines, such as Delta Airlines, United and U.S. Airways, corporate aviation (Lowes, Milan Labs, etc.), U.S. Armed Forces, as well as local employers, such as Bombardier, KCI, Pratt & Whitney Engine Services and Lockhead Martin Inc. In addition, there are many job opportunities overseas in various aviation industries. Gilbert also added that other jobs include work with NASA, amusement parks (because of hydraulics) and Air Force One.

Gilbert has been with Fairmont State for 15 years and says that he enjoys his job and feels that it is important to choose a career of interest. The best part of his job is working with the students who, as

he mentioned, "keep me young."

"It's hard to be in a bad mood when you come

here. Everybody seems to leave their bad moods

behind, and the students are fun, which makes

for a positive atmosphere," he said.

During Alpha Eta Rho's stay at the Langley Air Force Base for the "Airpower over Hampton Roads" air show on April 27-28, 2007, they got to see the first ever full demonstration of the new F-22 Raptor.

Photo Submitted By Andrew Lau



Two students fix a helicopter at the Robert C. Byrd National Aerospace Education Center.

Photo Submitted By Paul Schreffler

Planes at the Robert C. Byrd location are used for maintenance and flight training. A new program also offers community flights for people to earn or expand their private licenses.

Photo Submitted By Paul Schreffler



Health Careers

By: Rachel Skubis

The School of Health Careers is a good choice for students who are interested in assisting with health care. Students are certain to find jobs and financial security, since physical health is a necessary asset to any state and culture. The School of Health Careers offers programs in Health Information Technology, Laboratory Assistant Certificate, Medical Lab Technology, Nursing Assistant Certificate, Physical Therapist Certificate, Respiratory Care, and Veterinarian Technology.

In the Health Information Technology Program, students learn skills to effectively keep

health records.
They receive
an Associate of
Applied Science
Degree once they
have completed
the program. The
program also
allows graduates to
take the National
Accreditation
Examination for
Registered Health
Information
Technician.

The

technicians. Being an important and necessary part of health care, graduates are very employable at such places as hospitals, laboratories, clinics, public health facilities, and other businesses. Graduates can also become medical technologists, which requires a baccalaureate degree and three years of clinical laboratory experience. They can also earn a baccalaureate degree in Allied Health, Biology, or Business.

Located at the Gaston Caperton Center in Clarksburg, the Physical Therapist Assistant Program allows students to earn an associate

> degree after two academic years and a required summer session. Graduates must pass the state licensing examination to work as physical therapist assistants. Physical **Therapist** Assistants work under physical therapists,

choosing treatment procedures and recording and reporting patients' reactions. PTAs work in hospitals, clinics, rehabilitation centers, nursing care facilities, and other health-related settings. PTAs can earn a baccalaureate degree in a related field, but courses taken in the PTA program do not transfer for credit toward a degree to become

allows students to work in a laboratory with a technician, analyst, or scientist in hospitals, clinics, research facilities, and federal and state agencies. After completed the program, students can move on to an associate degree health careers program, transfer into a baccalaureate degree program, or apply for a job.

Laboratory Assistant Certificate Degree Program

Offering an Associate of Applied Science Degree, the MLT Program enables graduates to take national certifying examinations for medical laboratory technicians or clinical laboratory

Rachel Mclaughlin takes a sample of blood from the freezer in the clinical lab to do a blood smear test. *Photo By Rachel Skubis*

a physical therapist. Three years ago, the average annual salary for this field of study was around \$38,000. Employment in this field is expected to grow.

Students in the Respiratory Care Program

earn an Associate of Applied Science Degree,

enabling them to take the Certified
Respiratory Therapist and Registered

Respiratory Therapist Exam. They learn about various components

in cognitive, psychomotor, and

affective learning. Graduates can be licensed by the West Virginia Board of

Respiratory Care and can be employed as a licensed respiratory therapist in

West Virginia. Because of increase in the number

middle-aged and elderly people, job opportunities are

expected to grow in this field.

Hospitals in northern West Virginia

currently have a shortage of qualified

respiratory therapists, and salaries range from about \$34,000 to

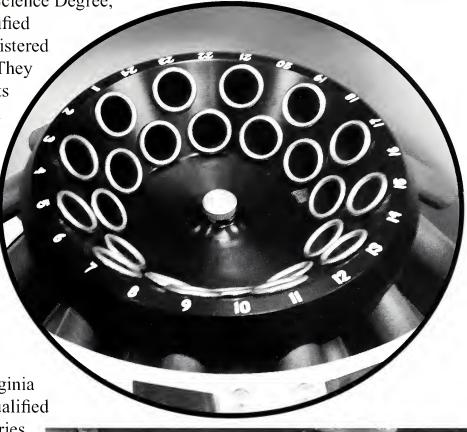
\$40,000.

The Veterinarian Technology Program is a two-year associate degree program which allows students to take the National Board Exam and the licensing exam to become registered veterinary technicians. Students learn about such areas as anatomy and physiology, chemistry, microbiology, parasitology, animal diseases, and animal care. Students must also complete two preceptorships in two different veterinary facilities. Veterinary

technicians work under a licensed veterinarian, assisting with surgery, anesthesia, radiology, bandaging, and other activities related to animal health care. Job opportunities are increasing in this area, and salaries range from \$18,000 to \$38,000.

Students in some health career programs use a centrifuge to separate substances by rotating them at high speeds.

Photo Submitted By Denise Stutler





Sophomore MLT majors Rachel Mclaughlin and Bryan Reed take a white blood count using hemacytometers.

Photo By Rachel Skubis

Human Services

By: Rachel Skubis

Human Services Program include a wide range of learning and business opportunities in the following areas: Criminal Justice; Early Childhood; Emergency Medical Services; Fashion Design; Folklife Studies; Food Service Management; Homeland Security; Interior Design; and Paraprofessional in Education.

The Criminal Justice Program gives students a general orientation of criminal justice as a whole.

After completing the program, students can find jobs in local, county, and state governments, security agencies, and social service agencies or as police officers, correctional officers, security/loss prevention officers, and private investigators.

The Early Childhood Program ensures that students understand the physical and psychological development of children and the means to carry out curriculum appropriate to this development. Students work at the campus laboratory preschool and early childhood programs available in the community. Licensed by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources,

the preschool program is also a wonderful opportunity for Fairmont State students to have their sons and daughters relatively close during their daytime classes. Once the program is completed, students will be employable at child care centers, Head Start Centers, preschools, and nursery schools.

Emergency Medical Services trains students to become emergency medical technicians, who provide medical care in emergencies and transport injured victims to hospitals. Employment is growing quickly in this area, as students can become public and private EMS providers for hospitals and aeromedical services.

Gaining an Associate Degree in Applied Design prepares students for careers in the fashion design business in either the retail or wholesale areas. Students study apparel design, business aspects of fashion retailing, merchandising, and

computer design through the classroom and on-the-job experience. One option for students is to couple a major in Fashion Merchandising with a minor in Retail Management and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Family and Consumer Sciences.

Students can gain a degree in Folk Arts and Crafts Production and Marketing, setting them up for jobs in heritage tourism, regional travel, craft marketing, historic preservation, and promotion of regions' natural resources. Students interested in selling handmade products may also find their niche in this



program.

Nationally accredited through the American Culinary Federation Accrediting Commission, the Food Service Management program helps students in their pursuit to become certified culinarians. The program aids students in their understanding of the importance of nutrition, sanitation and

Many interesting handmade objects and crafts are found in the Folklife Center.

Photo By Rachel Skubis

safety, and personnel management. Students also prepare menus through hands-on training outside the classroom. Students can enter culinary arts or dietary management, where careers are available in such settings as hospitals, long-term care, schools, and correctional facilities.

After providing proof of US citizenship and passing a background check, students can enter the Homeland Security Program. It requires core courses and specialty tracks in Aviation, Emergency Medical Services, Criminal Justice, or Safety. Career opportunities are provided at defense corporations, hospitals, the aviation industry, regional security offices, and state and federal emergency management.

The Interior Design Program helps students earn about design, space planning, construction naterials, and presentation skills among other areas o prepare them for residential and commercial design work. Students work in and out of the classroom, participating in on-the-job experience, client projects, and a design competition. One

option for students is to couple a major in Interior Design with the Bachelor of Science Degree in Family and Consumer Sciences, with some extra study in Architectural Design.

The Paraeducation Program provides certification for students to obtain an associate degree in education in order to be a Teacher's Aide, a requirement by the "No Child Left Behind" mandate. According to state requirements, NCLB, and the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act," anyone working with students with special needs or assisting a teacher in a classroom must be a fully qualified paraprofessional. Paraeducator's responsibilities continue to grow in the public school system, and this program allows students to enter the field with necessary skills and qualifications.

Students in Dr. Nancy Cheshire's Early Childhood course learn about children's psychological development. *Photo By Rachel Skubis*



Non-Credit Training Programs

By: Rachel Skubis

College is not just about getting degrees but also receiving additional skills and training in certain jobs. Pierpont's Center of Workforce Education provides education and training programs to help students update their skills and meet requirements in various work fields. The training programs are designed to accommodate participants' goals—to renew their skills so that they may increase their employment opportunities or make themselves more credible in their

established areas. Non-Credit Workforce Training Programs include orientation programs, workshops, and certification programs. Schedules, prices, locations, and time duration of the programs vary depending on the content.

Programs include the following: Apprentice Underground Miner Training Program; Beginning Lumber Grading Short Course; Certification Procedural Coding (CPC) Program; Certified Protection Officer (CPO) Program; Computer Application Training Programs; Emergency Medical Technician-Mining (EMT-M); Fairmont State National Transportation Academy; Federal Acquisition Management Certification Program; Grant Writing Program; Information Technology (IT) Certification Programs; Law Enforcement Training; NHLA Lumber Grading Program; Oil and Gas-Floorhand Training Program; Online Medical Transcription Training Program; and Online Small Business Training Program.

Many components in various disciplines change over time. It is easy for a person to become so involved in the routine of his or her job that the changing atmosphere of the field bypasses his or her current stance. It is vital to keep-up with the technology and changing procedures in the business arena, and Pierpont's Non-Credit Workforce Training Programs assist in this valuable pursuit.

Students in the Federal Acquisition Management Program attend a seminar.

Photo Submitted By

Paul Schreffler

An instructor of the Certified Protection
Officer-Security Guard
Program demonstrates the proper and safe use of a firearm.

Photo By John Piscitelli

Students in the Apprentice Underground Miner
"Red Hat" Course display equipment that is used in
underground coal mines.

Photo Submitted By Paul Schreffler



Community Education

By: Laura Arevalo

Instructor
Kimberly Cale
rolls out
fondant in
the last set
of a series
of cake
decorating
classes.

Photo By Rachel Skubis

ale

Students in the chocolate class lecorate fruit with a mixture of white and milk hocolate.

Photo By Kevin Funk

C THOU

sudents in Robin Belmear's digital photography ass learn about camera settings. *hoto By Rachel Skubis*

Fairmont State University not only caters to the needs of the student population, but it has extended its reach into the community. Pierpont Community and Technical College of Fairmont State University, along with the support of the Gear Up Grant, have developed a program aimed at reaching the community and equipping them with the values of life-long learning through fun, interesting, an interactive classes.

The Gear Up Grant encourages alliances between schools, colleges, parents, students, and community organizations.

Scrap booking, ballroom dancing, gardening, and cooking are all non-graded courses offered by the Community Education Program.

"We have had a tremendous response from the community," Ron Weist, director of the program, said.

"People enjoy coming out, meeting new people, and learning ballroom dancing, gourmet cooking, or basket weaving, just to name a few," Weist said.

In deciding what courses to offer and make available to the public, Weist tries to identify trends in the community education field and look at the successful programs other people are offering.

"I try to determine what is working and what is not," Weist said. "We receive many ideas from people right here in our own community."

The community is notified of what courses will be offered, their times and locations through the community education brochure.

"Every household in Fairmont is sent a brochure via mail. We also distribute the brochures in libraries and the senior centers," he said.

Professor Jean Bolyard, Chair of Academic Studies, took a chocolate testing course.

"It was interesting to learn about the different chocolates and sample them," Bolyard said.

"I think this is great for the community, for us to be able to have different experiences that we could only see on *The Food Network*. It was great to create and taste the different kinds of chocolate," Bolyard said.

SPORTS

By: Rachel Skubis



Faculty Athletics Representative Dr. Donald Moroose, (FAR)

Senior Woman Administrator Kristi Kiefer, (SWA) SmallCollegeSportsWeb.com
Reid Amos, Webmaster-FightingFalcons.com

Sports Information Adam Zundell Pat Snively Andy Taylor prepares to steal 2nd base. *Photos By Mound Staff*



The 2006-2007 year for Fairmont State Athletics heeded various challenges and nonors. Participating in various regional and national championships, the athletic department epresented the scholarship and success that comes with dedication and teamwork.

In volleyball, senior middle hitter liffany Board was named to the WVIAC All-fournament team, while junior outside hitter staci Skinner was named to the 2006 All-WVIAC second team.

Over 40 players joined the Falcon Sootball team in the fall of 2007, under the direction of Coach Rusty Elliott. Football player Wendell Johnson was among the 45 players who made up Team USA at the 2007 World Championship of American Football in July.

The Fairmont State cross country team's first meet in Elkins won them fifth place finishes, and they ended their season at the East Regionals, with top-finishers Jayson Lafferre and Kanae Amatatsu.

Stacey Bollinger, a member of the women's golf team, was the recipient of the Fairmont State Athletic Association Scholarship. The men's golf team wrapped

up its season in history with an 18th-place finish at the NCAA Division II National Championships in Allendale, Michigan.

In tennis, Lindsay Edwards was awarded All-WVIAC honors for the third consecutive season. Fairmont State ended the regular season 3-6 overall and 2-5 in the WVIAC. Men's tennis finished with a 6-3 loss to Salem International, with Brandon Horner given credit for the Falcons' individual win.

Swimmer and tennis player Matej Tomas was named to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District men's at-large second team for the second year. Fairmont State cheerleaders claimed second place in the 2007 UCA National Championships in Orlando, Florida.

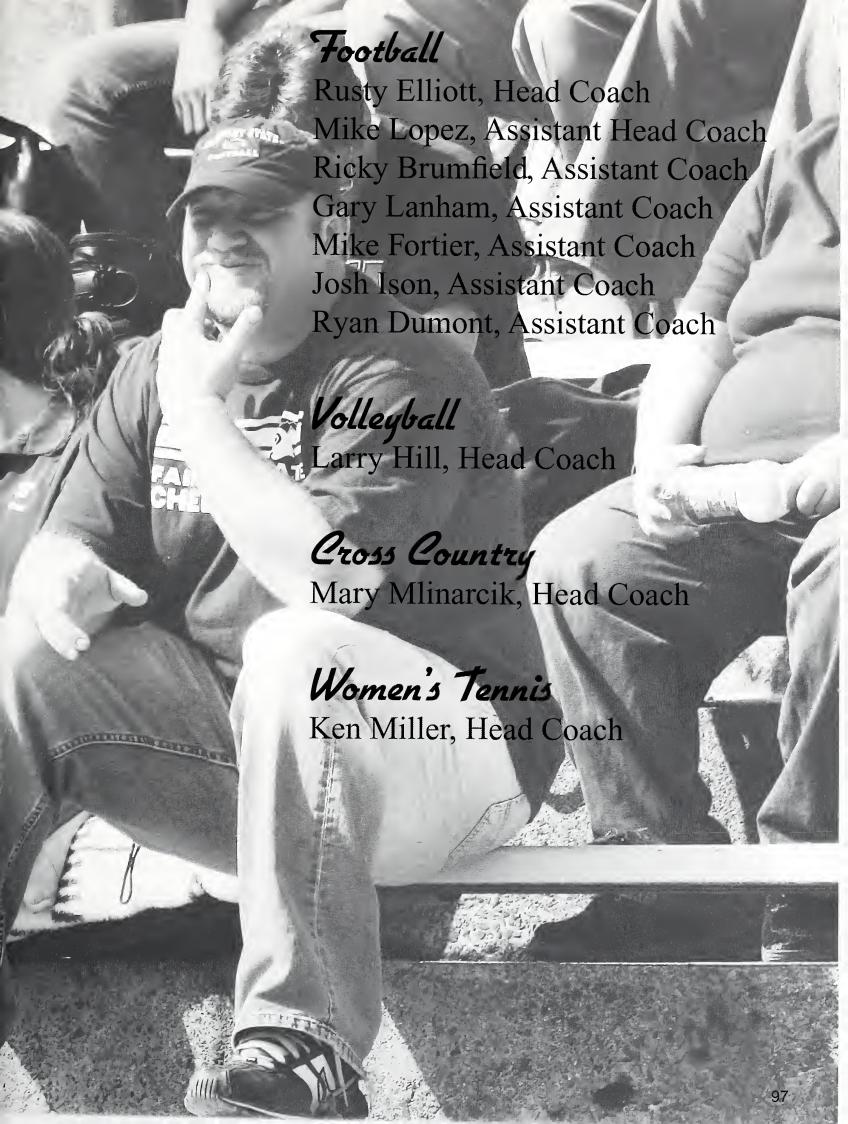
As for women's basketball, Concord beat Fairmont State 53-50 in a WVIAC Women's Basketball Tournament quarterfinal. Men's basketball finished atop the final NCAA Division II statistics in three-pointers made per game. The Falcons averaged 10.6 per game, and junior point guard Ronnie Means and senior forward Kevin Pearson earned All-WVIAC accolades.

In softball, Fairmont State third baseman Whitnie Highland was named to the Daktroniks, Inc. All-Great Lakes second team and first team All-WVIAC. Six Fairmont State players earned All-WVIAC honors, which included the following members: Julie Bolyard and Whitnie Highland (first team); Alyssa Childers (second team); and Brooke Keene, Kristy Rausch and Heather Shutler (honorable mention).

In baseball, Fairmont State third baseman Jonathan Kemp received the 2007 ABCA "Gold Glove Award" for the North Atlantic Region. Pitcher Tony Magnanelli was named to the All-North Atlantic Region second team, and Tony Magnanelli, Jonathan Kemp, and Tyler Nunn earned All-WVIAC honors.

Seniors Matej Tomas and Jenna Eckleberry were named the 2007 recipients of the Colebank Award at the 45th annual Fairmont State Athletic Association Scholarship Banquet. FSU athletic trainer Bob Cable was also named "West Virginia Athletic Trainer of the Year" by the WVATA.





Football

Bv: Mohamed Kamara

If you happened to open the Fairmont State University 2006 Football Media Guide and looked at their team roster, you would think that you were looking at a perennial power house for division 2 football. Instead though, the Falcons were anything but that, but did show glimpses of domination on many occasions.

They were winners of only 4 out of 11 games, but this also includes a double-overtime loss, a 6 overtime loss, 3 losses decided by one touchdown or less, and 2 losses that literally could've went the other way depending on one play. Those sound like tough losses to take but overall, they are losses and that is what a team's success is depicted off of.

The Falcons, for the second season in a row, opened up their season with the University of California (PA.) Vulcans, which was featured live on Foxsportsnet, a nationally televised cable channel. In the first half of the game it seemed as if the Falcons were on the verge of upsetting the Vulcans on their home field. The scoreboard showed 10-3 with the Vulcans being up, but the Falcons dominated in every aspect of the game. In the second half though, the size of California (PA.) was too much for Fairmont State and the Vulcans pulled out the win 26-9.

The next two games against North Greenville of South Carolina and Concord University, the Falcons conference opener, were both losses. Against North Greenville, the Falcons never really seemed to get comfortable on either offense or defense giving up big plays on both sides resulting in a 28-7 loss. In a double-overtime loss to Concord, it was a back and forth game throughout even when starting quarterback John Rahl was lost early in the game due to a concussion paving way for back-up Willie McGhee to close out the game. A 4th and 5 conversion in the second overtime was failed though and the Falcons were left 0-3 for the season.

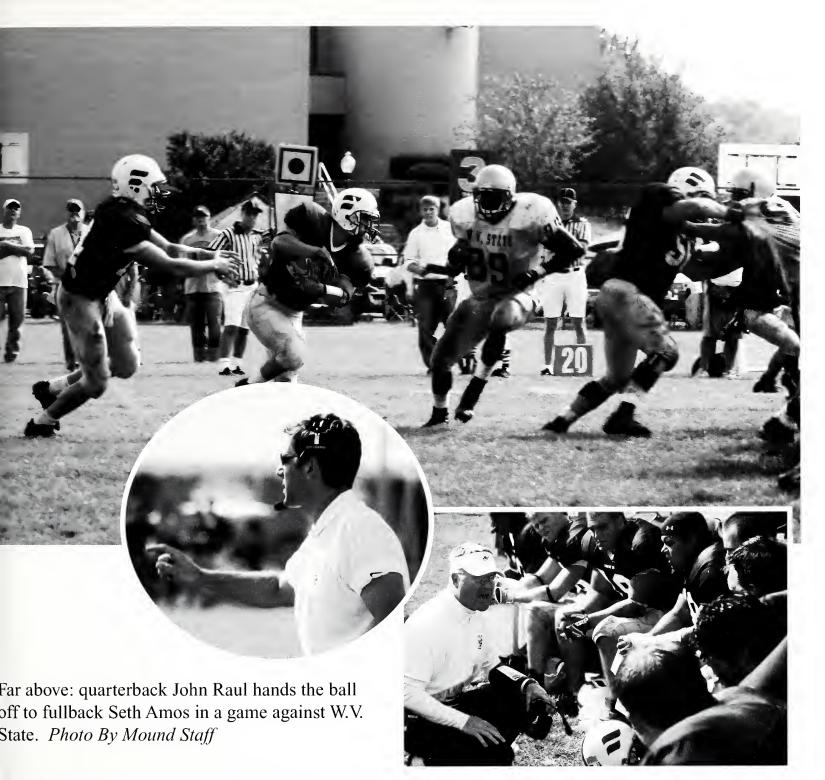
After the Concord game, Coach Rusty Elliott

said, "We're just not getting the consistency we need. We'll look good for a series and then not good for a series. Our kids have to start believing in what they can do and start doing it all of the time." The Falcons finally got some home cooking and dominated their home opener against West Virginia State 14-0, but the foes continued after then losing to nationally ranked Shepherd University 20-0. Following those games, they then lost back to back nail biters against Glenville State 16-14 and West Liberty 27-0.

A positive for the Falcons is that they got momentum going into next season by winning 3 of their last 4 games. They routed over University of Charleston 27-13, and then lost to St. Josephs (IN.) 19-11 in a 6 overtime loss. The last two games were played at East-West Stadium, a field turf field minutes away from Fairmont State University, where the Falcons beat West Virginia Wesleyan 20-3 and Webber International, a team out of Florida, 30-13.

On Offense, leading rusher Wendell Johnson ran for 1193 yards and 10 touchdowns which was enough to make him Fairmont State University's alltime career leading rusher with 3745 for his career. Career stats like that also got an invitation for Johnson to the East Coast Bowl, where he caught the game winning touchdown pass. Sophomore quarterback John Rahl passed for 1166 yards and 8 touchdowns, while Pat McClintic caught 35 passes for 447 yards and 3 touchdowns as the Falcons leading receiver. The defense this year was stout all year and was led by Sharam Shafii's 77 tackles, as well as Andre Pope's 7 interceptions. Brandon Geary also had 5 sacks along with fellow defensive end Jake Owens adding 4 more sacks. The Falcons also had 18 players honored for post season awards with 6 first-team all conference selections, 1 second team selection, and 11 players with honorable mention all conference honors.

The senior class that the Falcons will be missing next year include: Wendell Johnson, Tony Alpy, Matt Anderson, Drew Cochran, Evan Cunningham, Ethridge Foster, Robbie Graham, Joh Marano, Pat McClintic, Stanley Moore, Jared Sams Matt Swain, and Mark Swisher.



Inset: defensive coordinator Mike Lopez signals in plays from the sideline.

Photo By Mound Staff

Top-right: head football coach Rusty Elliott talks to his offensive players. *Photo By Mound Staff*

Bottom-right: Linebacker Shahram Shafii prepares to intercept a pass in the in-zone that would seal a Falcon victory. *Photo By Mound Staff*



Volleyball By: Mound Staff

Fairmont State's volleyball team had a tough time of it in 2007, posting an 8-22 mark before being eliminated in the WVIAC quarterfinal round

West Virginia State.

Tiffany Board was named to the all-tournament team with 14 kills and 17 digs in a first-round win against Davis & Elkins and then 10 kills against WV State.

Another highlight of the year was having junior Staci Skinner named as WVIAC player of the week for her performance against West Liberty and Wheeling Jesuit.

Skinner had a total of 38 kills in the two games and recorded a hitting percentage of .475 as the Falcons defeated West Liberty 3-0 and lost a hard-fought battle against Wheeling Jesuit, 3-2.

The Lady Falcons dug themselves a large hole for the season, losing the first 12 contests before posting a win against Bluefield State on Sept. 24. They went on to win games against Ohio Valley, Salem International, West Liberty and Wheeling Jesuit and rode a brief three-game winning streak in late October.

Skinner is expected to lead a better team into her senior season.

"My experience on the FSU volleyball team has been amazing and I can't wait until this upcoming season gets underway. I'm hoping my last season at FSU will be the best one yet,"

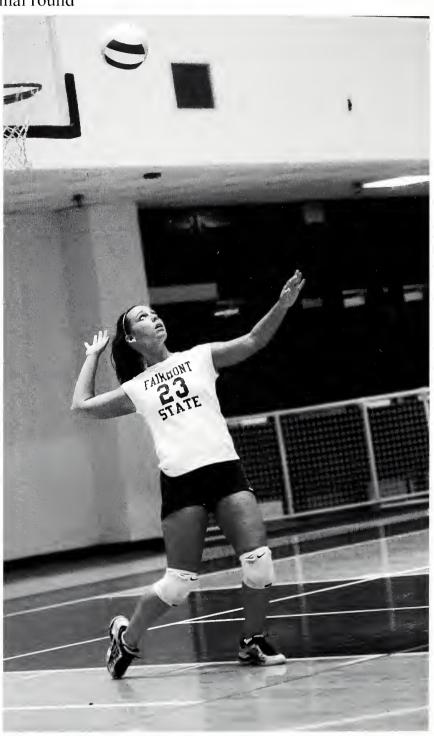
she said. "We are all such good friends and I'm going to miss them all once I'm gone."

Senior Keri Blank called her experience

wonderful despite the team record.

"The past four years I have learned so much more about the game, myself, and life in general. I wouldn't trade the time I've spent with all the volleyball girls for anything," she said.

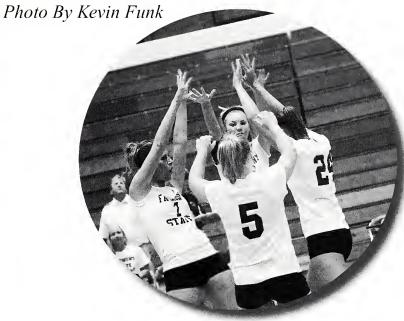
The team is coached by Larry Hill who says he lured some of the best talent in the state to FSU for next season, signing nine recruits after the season's end.



Senior Keri Blank serves the ball at a game against Alderson-Broaddus at the Feaster Center. *Photo By John Piscitelli*



Junior Staci Skinner spikes the ball against Shepherd, concluding the game with 23 kills.



Team members give each other celebratory highfives after scoring a point. *Photo By John Piscitelli*



First Row- Meagan LaFon, Emily Cunningham, Kelly Powell, Keri Blank, Tiffany Board, Jenny Bowers, and Angela Jenkins. Second Row- Whitney Curry, Lauren Pitzer, Kristen Elliott, Staci Skinner, Alisha Starcher, Micah Bell, and Head Coach Larry Hill. *Photo By John Piscitelli*

Men's & Women's Cross Country

By: Mound Staff

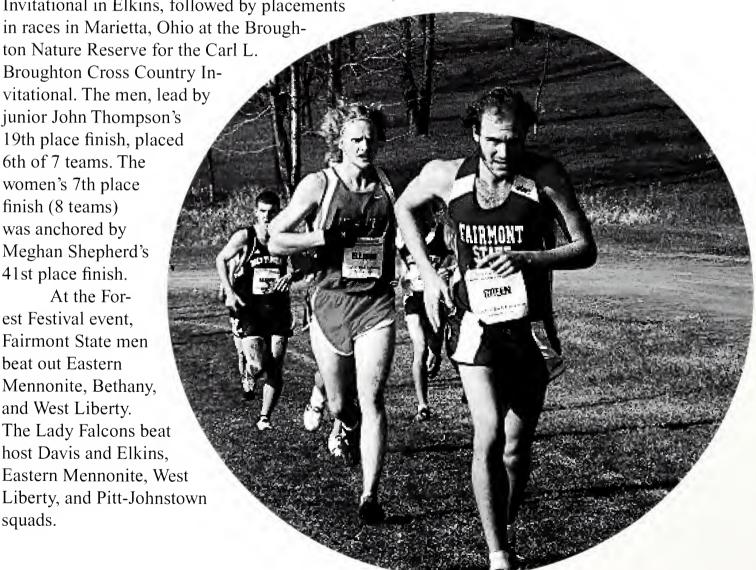
The Fairmont State cross country teams finished out their season at the East Regional held at Cooper's Lake Campground in Slippery Rock, Pa. as Jayson Lafferre and Kanae Amatatsu posed times of 37:50:90 and 27:26:90, respectively.

The win came after an impressive season which saw the harriers place in the top 10in nearly every meet.

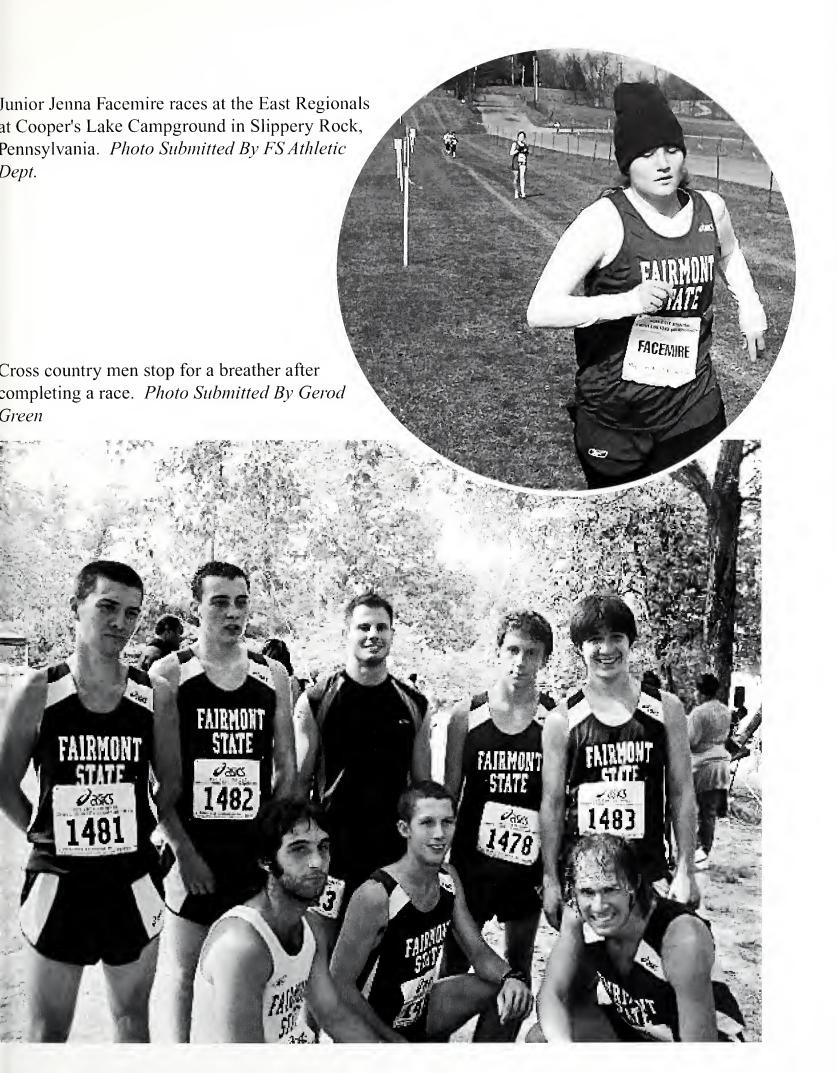
A third-place finish in the Greensboro Cross County Invitational started the season and it continued with nice showings at the Forest Festival Invitational in Elkins, followed by placements

ton Nature Reserve for the Carl L. Broughton Cross Country Invitational. The men, lead by junior John Thompson's 19th place finish, placed 6th of 7 teams. The women's 7th place finish (8 teams) was anchored by Meghan Shepherd's

41st place finish. At the Forest Festival event. Fairmont State men beat out Eastern Mennonite, Bethany, and West Liberty. The Lady Falcons beat host Davis and Elkins. Eastern Mennonite, West Liberty, and Pitt-Johnstown squads.



Gerod Green sprints ahead at the NCAA Regionals. Photo Submitted By Gerod Green



Men's & Women's Tennis

By: Joanna Aston



Freshman Sierra Hendershot follows through on a volley made during a match at the Fairmont State courts.

Photo Submitted By FS Athletic Dept.

The lady's tennis team ended their regular season 3-6 overall and 2-5 in the WVIAC. The season was not a great success but the players worked hard. According to the coach the players played their best and each player has improved.

"We have a program that promotes the sport and skills" said Coach Ken Miller. "I find that the young ladies that play improve dramatically over the 3 or 4 years that they are here. Performance and improvement is more important to me than whether we win or lose."

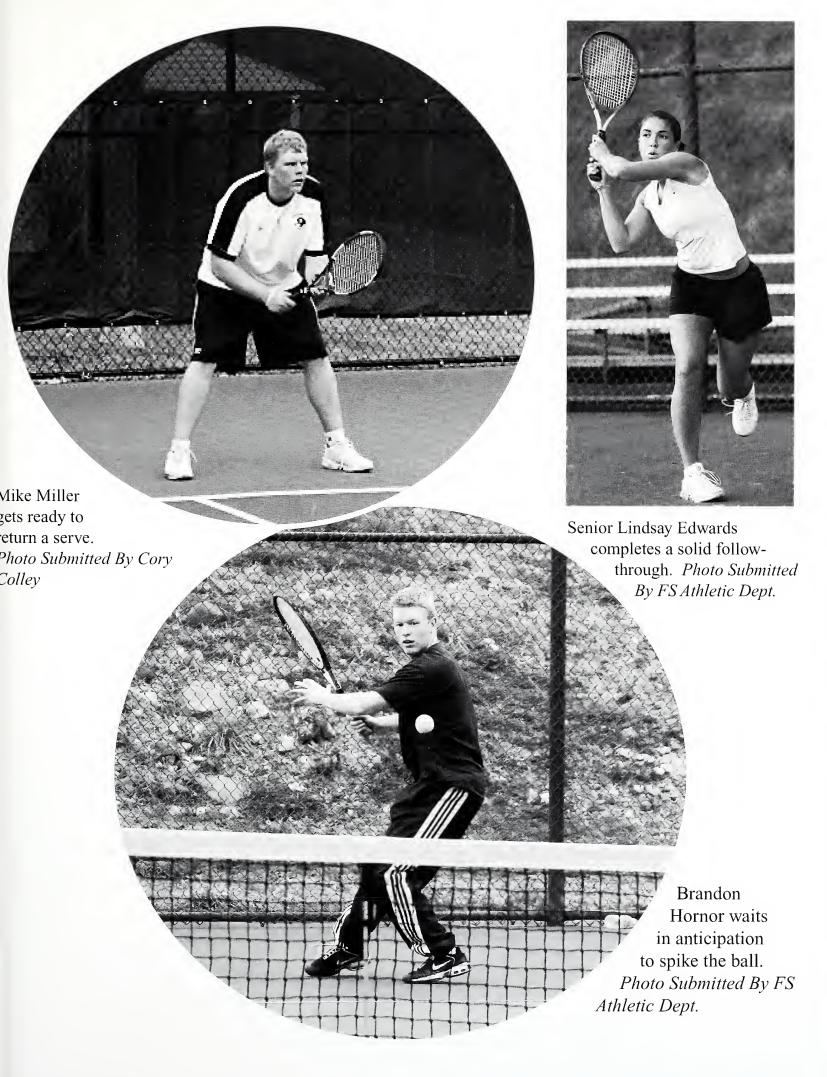
Three of the players will be graduating this year, and 3 will be returning. The coach said that Fairmont State will be recruiting players for next year.

Senior Kendra Kelps who will be one of the graduates said "The last match meant a lot to me because we were like a family. I really liked the people and the coaches were great."

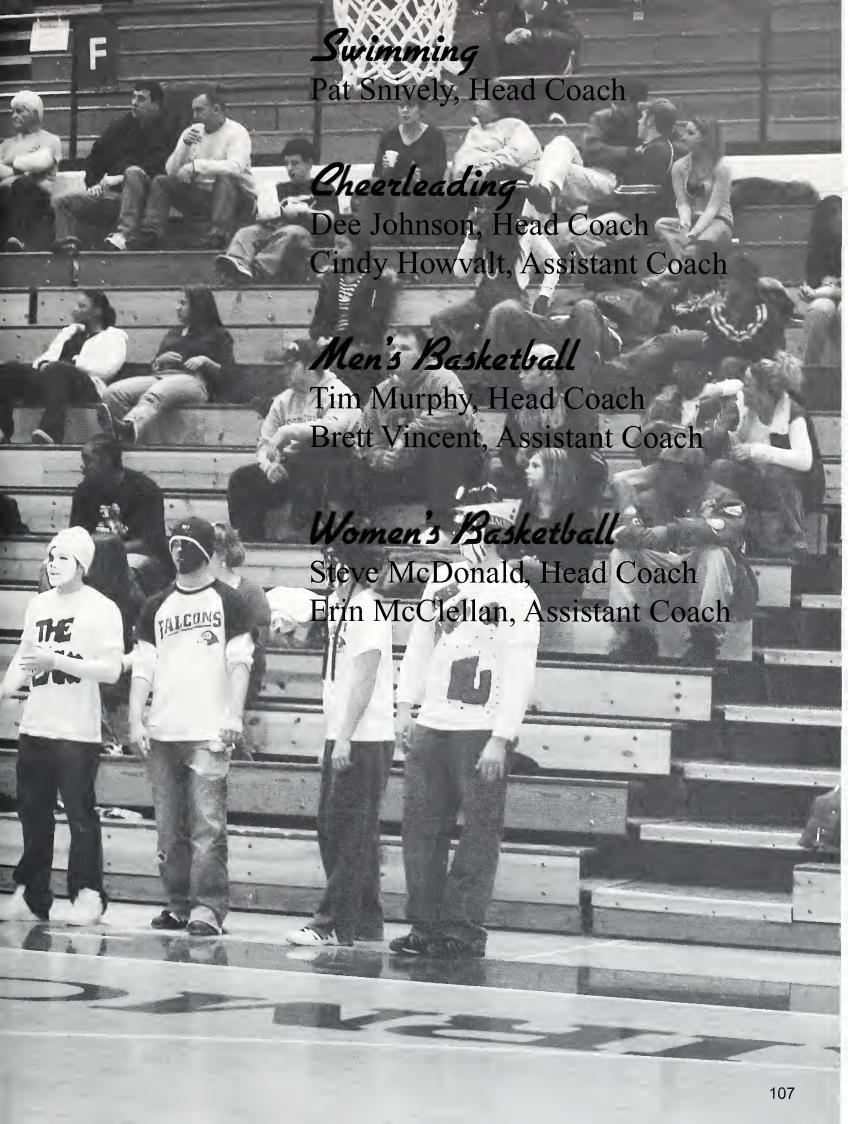
The men's tennis team also had a rough time this season. They finished out their season with a 6-3 loss to Salem International. The match was the second meeting of the season between the two schools and was considered part of their non-conference schedule. The Falcons finished 2-8 overall and 2-6 in the conference. (As stated by the FSU Press Release.)

"Lack of practice time is the reason why we had a bad season; we only had 2 weeks of practice time before the season started," said senior Scott Lemons.

Despite the difficulties this season, a little practice and some fresh-new faces may be just what Fairmont State's tennis teams needs to shine.







Men's & Women's Swimming

By: Tara Green

Students and the coaches involved in Men's and Women's Swimming teams at Fairmont State University not only practice for about twenty hours every week, but they feel like a close knit family and a family that celebrates each success and grieves each loss together.

Matej Tomas, a senior on the swim team from Croatia, said his friend from Croatia had attended Fairmont State University and swam for Coach Patrick Snively and gave a good report

about the swim team. His friend also told him about how the coach communicated well with his swimmers. Matej Tomas decided that he would come to Fairmont State University and swim for Coach Snively because it was very important for him to be a part of a team and

"Communication is one thing that is very important for a coach and a swimmer to be able to do." Tomas said.

working with a

coach he knew

about.

Coach Snively makes sure to enable his swimmers to do their best not only in swimming but also in academics.

"We strive to increase our depth and to push one another." Coach Snively said.

At Fairmont State University, students involved in swimming not only achieve high goals for athletics and academics, but they also achieve

close friendships. Kristi Lynch, a junior on the swim team, believes that a close relationship with team members is very important and is "very rare to find."

Academics and be competitive in meets are very important to Coach Snively and the swimmers here at Fairmont State. Matej Tomas was a twelve time All- American and his highest finish for his career was in the 2007 season as a runner-up in the 200 fly. He also holds six team records and ten

Feaster Center Pool records. Tomas
is a four time Academic AllAmerican and received
the Colebank Award
for being the senior
athlete with the
highest grade
point average.

with team records of having high grade point averages, the team members also are involved with the Fairmont State community. Kristi Spriggs participates in Student Government and

Along

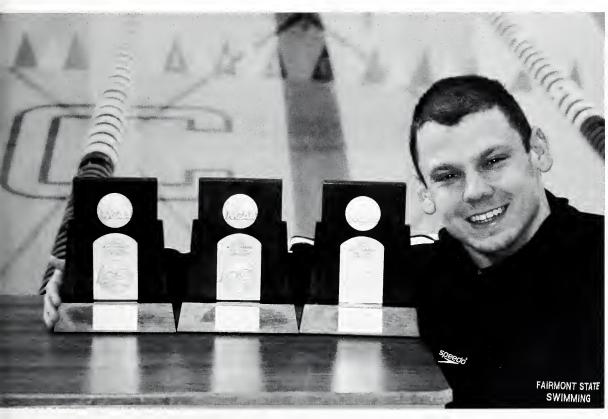
Kristi Lynch is the president of SAC.

This team has met Coach Snively's high expectations for this year and has met their personal goals.

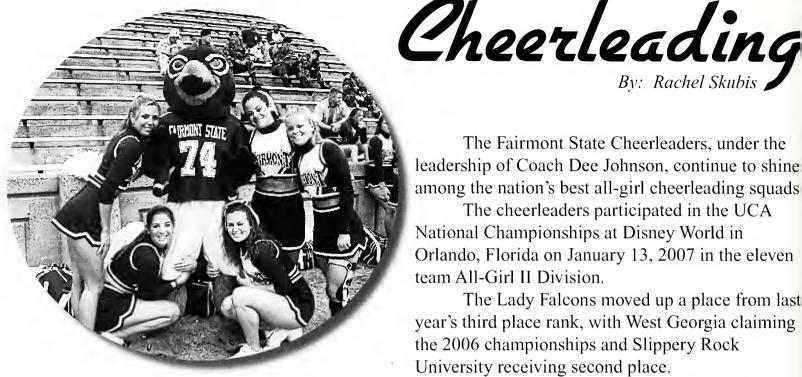
John Kroll swims the 500 freestyle at the last home meet against St. Vincent's College. *Photo Submitted By John Kroll*

First Row: Kristi Lynch, Jen Lomangino, Kristi Spriggs, Jessie Patterson, Amy Alt, Geri Angelova, Rophe Woods, and Nicki Stanley. Second Row: Craig Vincent, Matej Tomas, Jarrod Hunte, William Muriel, Ivan Madolev, Chris Sedlacek, Josh Boyce, Kyle Lilley, and John Kroll. *Photo By John Piscitelli*



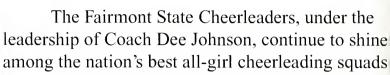


Senior Matej Tomas shows off his NCAA awards. Photo Submitted By FS Athletic Dept.



Shana Barr, Bethany Bolyard, Amanda Hite, Theresa Pederson, and Kari Chipps are all smiles with the Fairmont State Falcon. Photo Submitted By FS Athletic Dept.

The Falcon Cheerleaders compete in the UCA National Championships in Orlando, Florida. Photo Submitted By Johnna Drelick



By: Rachel Skubis

The cheerleaders participated in the UCA National Championships at Disney World in Orlando, Florida on January 13, 2007 in the eleven team All-Girl II Division.

The Lady Falcons moved up a place from last year's third place rank, with West Georgia claiming the 2006 championships and Slippery Rock University receiving second place.

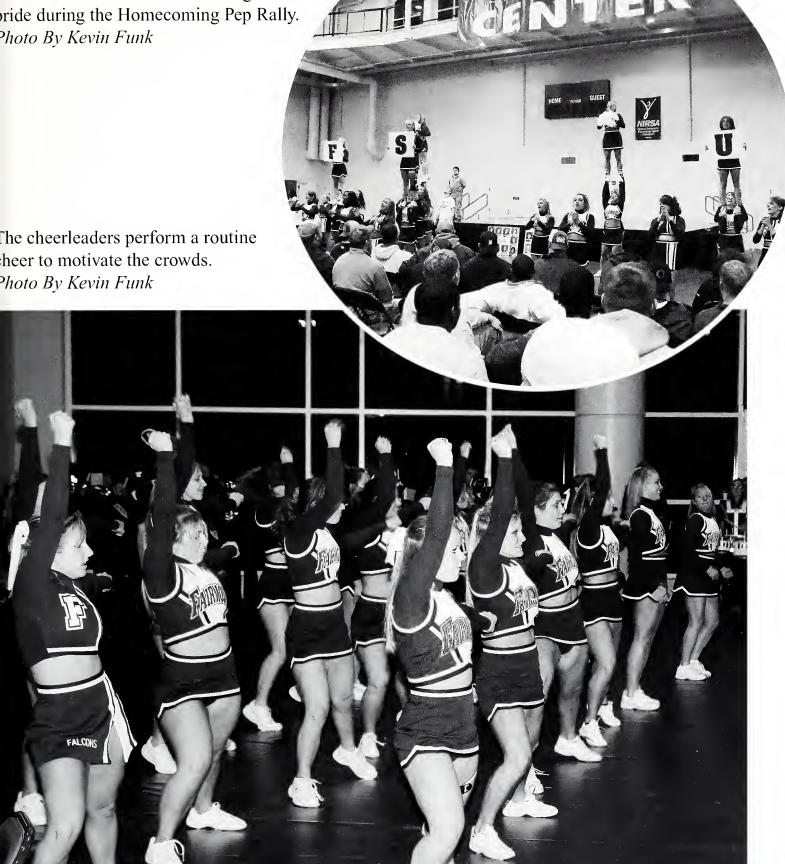
Fairmont State claimed second place in the 2007 competition, while the University of West Georgia once again took first.

Being a part of the competition since 1995, the team has never placed below third place. The Lady Falcons have received five UCA National Championships over the past ten years. Liz Smith, Bethany Bolyard, Amanda Hite, and Kari Chipps received seventh place in the Partner-Stunt Championships.



The squad was joined by teamwork and friendship, as member Bethany Bolyard said, "I always look forward to going to practice and hearing what the girls have to say."

The Falcon Cheerleaders stand high with oride during the Homecoming Pep Rally.



Women's Basketball

By: Mound Staff

When you're talking Fairmont State women's basketball, it's hard to imagine a down year. For four straight seasons the Lady Falcons have been 20-game winners and a strong force in the WVIAC. The 2006-07 season wasn't necessarily one of disappointment, although the ladies fell one win shy of the magical number 20 (19-10) and were eliminated in the quarterfinal round by an improved Concord team, it wasn't what Falcons fans were expecting.

But, that's what happens when you lose not only two of your top scorers, but two of the top

players in the history of the university. That's hard to

replace.

The scrappy
Lady Falcons
ended the season
in Charleston
when a pair of
Becca Flanagan
free throws with
34 seconds left
snapped a 50-50
tie as Concord
(21-8) knocked off
Fairmont State, 53-50,
in a WVIAC Women's
Basketball Tournament
quarterfinal.

Four Fairmont State women's basketball players earned All-

Conference recognition. The Ladies were on pace to get the 20 wins but fell into a four-game losing spin just before the regular season ended. Still, they managed to record one of the best records in the league.

Danielle Cornish was named to the first team, while Jenna Eckleberry and Molly Kiger were given

honorable mention honors. Jaimie Merinar was named to the league's All-Freshman team. Cornish led Fairmont State in scoring with 16 point per game while shooting 53 percent from the field. Eckleberry led the league in assist-to-turnover ratio and was among the conference leaders in assists. Kiger averaged 11.3 ppg and a team-best 7.5 rpg. Merinar started every game for the Falcons and averaged 10.7 ppg and 5.9 rpg.

In post-season honors, Eckleberry was named the 2007 recipient of the Colebank

given annually to the senior athletes who has done the most to promote the best

Fairmont State.

interest of athletics at

A native of
Chester, W.Va.,
she lettered
three seasons
at Fairmont
State after
transferring
from Robert
Morris. As a
full-time starter
in 2005-06, she
was eighth in
Division II with 6.2

assists per game and her 180 assists were the fifthmost in school history

As a senior, she was an All-

WVIAC honorable mention and was seventh in the country in assists per game (6.66). She led the

Guard Jaime Parker steals the ball and heads in for a basket during a game against Salem International. *Photo Submitted By FS Athletic Dept.*

ague in assist/turnover ratio (2.81). Eckleberry so set the school single-game assist record, ishing out 17 against West Chester on Nov. 18, 206. She leaves FSU with 411 assists, sixth-best in chool history.

In a special ceremony held during halftime a Falcon game, Fairmont State standouts risten Gattuso and Vicki Huffman were named the WVIAC's "25 at 25" Women's Basketball eam. A panel of 31 past and present coaches, dministrators, players, and media members elected the squad. Twenty five all-time great ayers, along with five top coaches, were picked to elebrate the 25th anniversary of women's athletics ander the WVIAC banner.

Gattuso finished her career with a school-cord 2,041 points. She was a second team Allmerica selection by Daktroniks. She broke the shool's scoring record which had been held by uffman from 1980-84. Huffman scored 1,806 points and also earned All-America honors.

Guard Stephanie Beason makes a shot over an opposing team member from Glenville. *Photo Submitted By FS Athletic Dept.*



Below, Head Coach Steve McDonald goes over plays with the team during a home game. Under his direction, the Falcons have made 20 or more wins in four of the last six years.

Photo Submitted By FS Athletic Dept.



Men's Basketball

By: Mound Staff

Fairmont State University's men's basketball team has had a history-making year. The team finished first in the NCAA Division II statistics in three-pointers made per game. According to team officials, "The Falcons averaged 10.6 per game, ahead of Ashland and Oakland State (10.1)." Fairmont State's 297 three-pointers set a

school record topping the previous record set a season ago by 79.

The record's contributors were Adam Southern who placed third in school history with 65 three-pointers, John Dillingham who placed fifth in school history with 60, and Cody Loughry who tied for sixth in school history

with 58.

This

accomplishment came at the heels of what could have been an entirely negative season for the Falcons. The first half of the season unfortunately held losses to teams including a 95-68 loss to Wheeling Jesuit and a 91-70 loss to West Liberty State. The men finished on a high note, however, with an 81-64 win over West Virginia Wesleyan and a 92-44 win over Ohio State-Newark. The team's challenge stemmed in part from the gaining of four new freshman this season and three transfers. Head Coach Tim Murphy said that "meshing the new players with the old" was one of the most challenging obstacles the team faced this year. Team members such as junior forward Jamal Womble of Augusta, Georgia held this same concern. "We stuck together through tough times even though we had an up and down year," Womble said of the team's challenging season.

Overall, however, Coach Murphy commented that this was "One of the most enjoyable years with a group of great young men." This group of outstanding young men is constantly changing as senior players graduate and new players are signed. This year the team signed Hedgesville High star Michael Lopez, who will help to continue the

> Falcons three-point title. According to officials, Lopez is "One of the top three-point shooters in the state."

With the addition of new players the team also lost several

> seniors from the active roster The team will be losing seniors Kevin Pearson who is a forward from Mulberry, Florida, John Dillingham who is a forward from Cleveland, Ohio, Shawn

Jemison who is a guard from Rochester, New York, and James Carpenter who is a center from

Spencer, West Virginia.

In addition to the team's

accomplishments, individual players also fared well this year. Fairmont State junior point guard Ronnie Means and senior forward Kevin Pearson earned All-WVIAC honors. Means was named to the second team, and Pearson earned an honorable mention. Fighting Falcons Alumni also received honors this year. The Fairmont State University Athletic Association inducted Lerman Battle, Teddy Darcus, and John Jamerson into this year's Hall of Fame Class of 2006.

Foreword John Dillingham attempts to steal the bal from an opposing team member. Photo Submitted By FS Athletic Dept.



Foreword Kevin Pearson dunks the basketball against Glenville during a conference match-up at the Feaster Center. *Photo By Mound Staff*

Head Coach Tim Murphy calls a time-out to regroup his players. *Photo By Mound Staff*







Baseball

By: Mound Staff

It was a rare scene in the dugout as the Fairmont State University Falcons closed out the season in late April. For only the second time in more than a dozen years, the Falcons were without post season action by virtue of splitting a doubleheader with rival Shepherd University on the last day of the regular season.

Fairmont State finished the season with a record of 15-23 and 8-10 in the WVIAC. The Falcons finished fifth in the WVIAC Northern division.

"We tried and just came up short," coach Ray Bonnett said. "I have to hand it to the guys, they tried and worked hard and we just didn't make the last cut."

The season marked the end of the college careers for several senior including Ryan Boggs of Franklin, W.Va,; Andy Taylor of Frederick, Md.; Tony Magnanelli, also of Frederick and Josh Kusich of Wellsburg, W.Va.

The post season awards were much kinder for the Falcons who saw Magnanelli named to the firstever *Daktroniks, Inc.*, All-North Atlantic first team. Jonathan Kemp was a second team selection. Magnanelli led the conference in wins (5) and ERA

(1.84). In fact, Magnanelli's ERA currently ranks 13th in NCAA Division II. He gave up just 11 earned runs in 53.2 innings on the year.

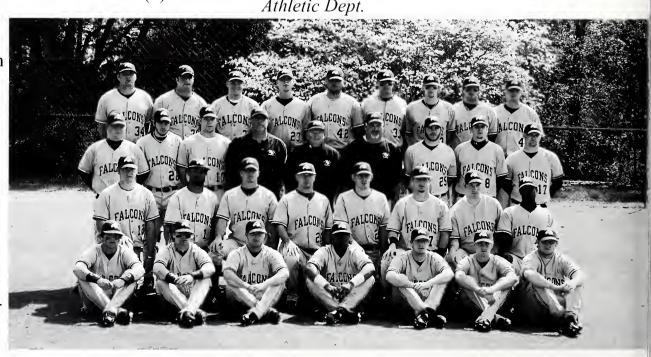
Kemp batted .350 as FSU's starting third baseman. He led the team in RBI (28) and belted four home runs on the

season. He committed just 10 errors on the season. In WVIAC honors, the Falcons had Magnanelli named to the first team, while Kemp and left fielder Tyler Nunn were named to the second team. The all-conference teams are selected by a vote of league coaches.

Nunn was the team's top hitter, batting .394, including three home runs. He was second on the team in RBI, and led the team with 14 multi-hit games, including a five-hit game against nationally-ranked Kutztown on March 13. Nunn finished the season on a 13-game hitting streak.

The Falcons played their homes games at East Fairmont High School as work on Duvall-Rosier Field took place. The team will be back at EFHS for the 2008 season, Bonnett said.

First Row: Justin Cunningham, Joe Tatta, Eric Danley, Demetrius Davis, Brandon Swartzentruber, Aaron Bosnick, and Andy Taylor. Second Row: Andy Leach, William Bussey, Zac Campbell, Bryand Spitzer, Casey Smith, Tyler Nunn, Tyler McNair, and Jawaan Holmes. Third Row: John Adams, Jerod Duelly, Todd Dillon, Assistant Coach George Yanchek, Head Coach Raymond Bonnett, Assistant Coach Rick Wade, Josh Kusich, Chris Brown, and Erik Wooten. Fourth Row: Zack Solly, Mike DeRose, Dustin Echard, Tony Magnanelli, Josh Bailey, Nick Demus, Ryan Boggs, Jonathan Kemp, and Donnie Rohrbaugh. *Photo Submitted By FS Athletic Dept*.





Andy Taylor throws the ball from the outfield. *Photo By Mound Staff*

Zack Solly waits patiently on first base, wearing a VT hat in remembrance of the April 16, 2007 tragic campus shootings. *Photo By Mound Staff*



William Bussey jumps for the ball with success against the fence in the outfield. *Photo By Mound Staff*

Sobtball By: Malorie Shriver

The Falcon's softball team wrapped up another winning season this year with a 5-4 loss to WVIAC powerhouse Charleston in the fifth round of the WVIAC Conference Tournament.

The Lady Falcons topped Bluefield State and West Virginia Wesleyan in the early rounds of the tournament before falling to Shepherd. They then went on to defeat WV State before facing topseeded Charleston. The Falcons trailed the game 2-0 until a seventh inning RBI double by Shana O'Briant tied the score and forced the game into extra innings. The Falcons lost four innings later, after an error in the outfield allowed the winning run to cross the plate.

Despite dropping the 11-inning bout with the Golden Eagles, FSU clenched

fourth place in the tournament and finished up with an impressive season, landing six players on the All-Conference team and earning a record of 27-19 overall, 15-9 in their conference.

Head coach Joni Bokanovich said the season was a great success for the Lady Falcons. She cited the Falcon's early tournament win over second-seed WV Wesleyan as a highlight of the season.

"Wesleyan has been first place for a long time, so it was a big accomplishment to knock them into the losers bracket so early.

"Finishing fourth place in the conference

tournament was a satisfying end to the season. We started out well, had a rough spot in the middle, and finished strong," Bokanovich said.

Two FSU players claimed spots on the Conference All Tournament team. O'Briant, who contributed a home run and six RBIs in tournament play, and Whitnie Highland, who led the team with five runs scored during the tournament, were both named to the All Tournament team. Highland was also nominated to the first team All-WVIAC.

In addition to Highland, five other Lady Falcons earned All-WVIAC honors. Julie Bolyard was named to the first team All-Conference after contributing 35 RBIs and four home runs for the season. Alyssa Childers earned a spot on the second team. Childers lead FSU's pitching staff this year with an ERA of 1.73 and 106 strikeouts. Childers attributes her success this season to her teammates' support.

"As a pitcher, I never worried about a hit ball because I had a solid defense behind me. I knew

they would play behind me and give each game their all," the junior hurler said.

> Brooke Keene, Kristy Rausch, and Heather Shutler were all given All-Conference honorable mention. Keene and Rausch belted in a total of 59 runs over the course of the season. Shutler pitched a team-high 130 innings for the Lady Falcons, striking out 95 batters

and finishing up with a record of 12-10.

Pitcher Alyssa Childers hurls a sure strike. Photo Submitted By FS Athletic Dept.

Senior Tara Lewis finished up her final season at FSU with .266 batting average, 29 hits, and 11 RBIs. Bolyard also wrapped up her career this season, earning a .333 batting average, 43 hits, and 35 RBIs.

"We had great leadership this season, especially from our two seniors. It's probably been the best senior leadership we have had in a while," Bokanovich said.

In addition to their winning season the Lady Falcons also received academic honors, earning an average GPA of 3.28, which placed them third highest on the Fall Honor Roll at FSU.

Whitnie Highland awaits a throw in the infield. *Photo Submitted By FS Athletic Dept.*

Team members meet on the field for some encouragement before the game begins. *Photo Submitted By FS Athletic Dept.*



Men's and Women's Golf By: Mound Staff Golf

Concluding one of its best seasons ever, the FSU men's golf team showed why they are the best golf team in the state when they ran a win streak at the end of the season to finish 18th in the NCAA Division II national tournament.

The Falcons shot a final round 323 and a final four round total of 1,247. Justin Caroli put up a score in the 70s, posting a 78. He was the top Falcon finisher in the tournament, finishing in a tie for 51st place.

Caroli was followed by Zack Rudy who shot an 81 Will Gautreau and "Our goal, collectively, was to reach the national level, and we made it," said junior, Will Gautreau said. "This year we've practiced a lot together and helped each other out, to reach the highest possible goal."

The endless preparation had finally paid off on May 9th when the team reached its goal of locking a spot in the NCAA Championships. With the 4th year of exceptional leadership by Coach Reid Amos and the guidance of their two graduating teammates, the Falcons were able to achieve the first ever trip to the NCAA nationals.

"Overall, it is just an amazing feeling being at the NCAA National Championship," Gautreau said in a web blog during the tournament. "They do such a great job of running the tournament, it is first class all the way. It is also a great feeling being here as we get to spend these last days together as a team. Jon (Burnside) and Tyler (Franklin) get to end their careers where we all wanted them to end...at the NCAA National Championship. Just to be here is one of the highest achievements you can have as a college golfer.

"Our seniors, Jon Burnside and Tyler Franklin have been the foundation of this team for four years, and they're what we built this program around," Amos said.

"Will anchored us and brought it home for us," Amos said of the talented junior who tied for a medal in the tournament. The team did an extraordinary job of coming from behind to win them a regional title. "We've brought a group of guys together who are just unbelievable," said Amos.

The Lady Falcons got a two-round total of 863 to finish in second place at the WVIAC Women's Golf Tournament. Stacey Bollinger, senior student-athlete, received the Easton K. Feaster Award for maintaining the highest overall GPA.

Will Gatreau leads the team to its first East Region victory and NCAA Division II Men's Golf Championship appearance.

Photo Submitted By FS Athletic Dept.



First Row: Sabrina Colborn, Brittany Harris, Heather Cudmore, and Stacey Bollinger.

Second Row: Coach Brenda Moran. Photo Submitted By Heather Cudmore





First Row: Joe Boyd, Jeff Cunningham, and Matt Hiener. Second Row: Head Coach Reid Amos, Will Gatreau, Tyler Franklin, Jon Burnside, Zack Rudy, Justin Caroli, and Assistant Coach Michael Walker.

Photo Submitted By FS Athletic Dept.

Duvall-Rosier Field

By: Mound Staff

A game played in ankle-deep mud, followed by two forced home games at East-West Stadium, was enough to convince university officials that Duvall-Rosier Field was in need of a serious upgrade.

New synthetic turf was installed on the field over the summer months following school's ending to provide the football team, as well as women's softball and intramurals with a fresh turf on which to play.

The decision to resurface the field came after a triple overtime loss to visiting St. Joseph University (Ind.) in October 2006. Following the game the muddy sod was referred to as a "Field of Nightmares."

In May the FSU Board of Governors voted to install an artificial surface on the field at a cost of \$1.6 million. Half the funding for the project will come from the athletics and activities funds. The rest will be funded by a lease-purchase agreement for the next eight years.

FSU President Dan Bradley told the *Times West Virginian* the entire upper level of the field will be covered. He noted all of the university's athletic facilities are used too often to keep a grass field in decent shape for play.

"When you play athletic events like softball, football and intramurals, you need a surface you can play on," head football coach Rusty Elliott said.

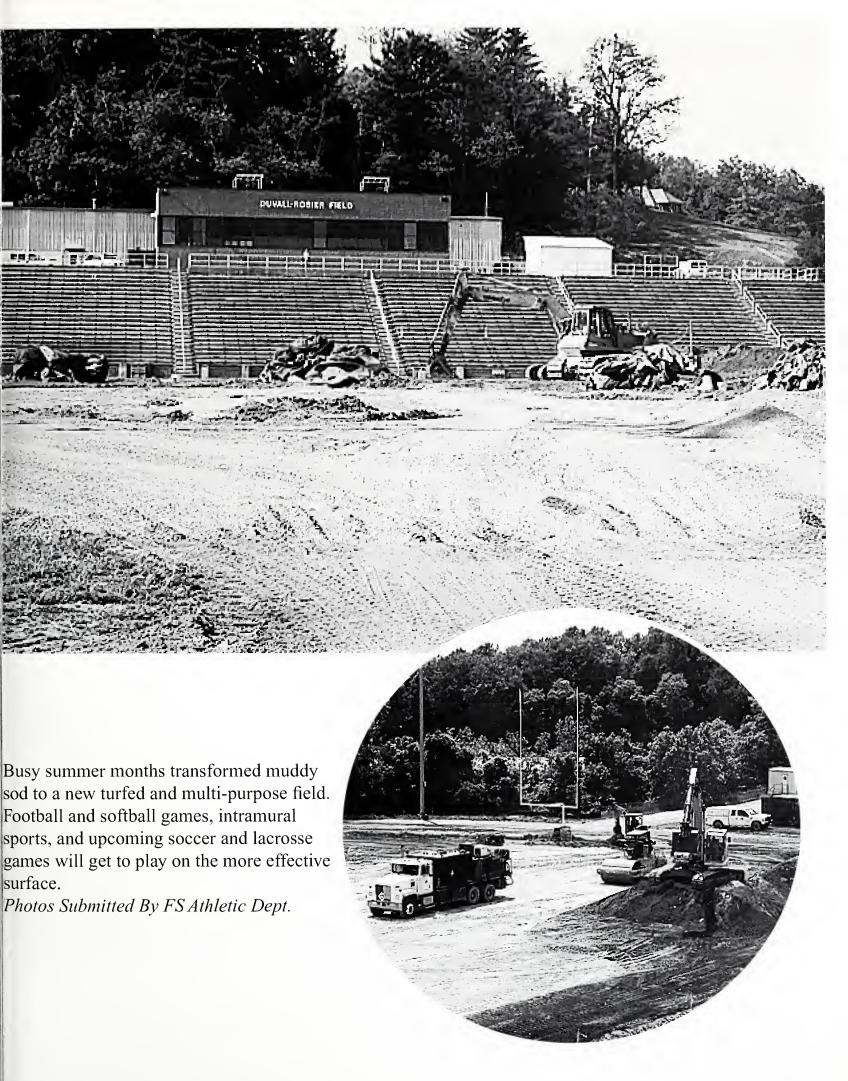
The new surface will be designed as a multipurpose field. Bradley said the new turfed surface will host football and softball games, as well as intramural sports. It will also be large enough to accommodate soccer and lacrosse games as the university expands its women's athletics program. The baseball team will no longer use the field. They will play at East Fairmont High School and are scheduled to share a home ballpark with a potential minor league team in 2009.



On May 8, 2007, the field was still composed of grass. *Photo Submitted By FS Athletic Dept.*



On May 23, 2007, renovation of the prior grass field with synthetic turf was underway. *Photo Submitted By FS Athletic Dept.*



Additional Group Photos



Men's Basketball- First Row: Dalene Horner (Support Staff), Eric Edwards (Student Assistant Coach) Head Coach Tim Murphy, Assistant Coach Brett Vincent, Dave Rogers (Director of Basketball Operations/ Video Coordinator), and Donna Trickett (Support Staff). Second Row: Travis Brown, Jeremy Harmer, Ronnie Means, Derrick Hotsinpiller, Aaron Suggs, Shawn Jemison, Cody Loughry, and Adam Southern. Third Row: Milan Trivanovic, Chris Carey, John Dillingham, Jamal Womble, James Carpenter, John Stanley, Kevin Pearson, Travis Sinclair, Dan Bruner, Pete O'Connor, and Wes Brown (Strength & Condtioning Coach). *Photo By John Piscitelli*



Women's Basketball- First Row: Trisha Uhl, Angela Scotchel, Melissa Henry, Jenna Eckleberry, Holly Muir, Stephanie Beason, and Danya Hammond. Second Row: Christine Zupanc, Ashley Vavrek, Samantha Wanichko, Jaimie Merinar, Molly Kiger, Shannon Wanichko, Samantha Guell, Danielle Cornish, and Jaime Parker. *Photo By John Piscitelli*

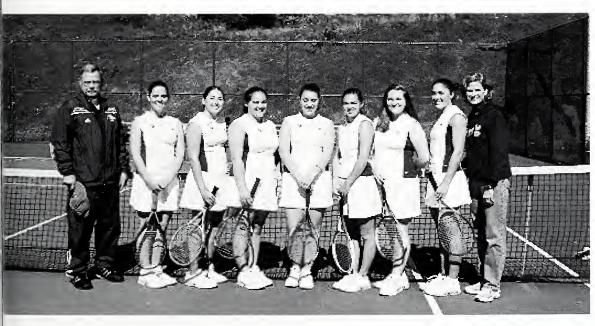




Softball- First Row: Alyssa Childers, Brooke Keene, Danielle Dalton, Heather Shutler, Julie Bolyard, Deana Groves, Tressa Butts, and Whitnie Highland. Second Row: Kristy Rausch, Amy Filius, Lauren Yurish, Amy Davis, Shana O'Briant, Emily Cunningham, Molly McCormick, and Serena Setcavage. Photo Submitted By FS

Athletic Dept.

Men's Tennis-Mark Vincent, Cory Colley, Brandon Horner, Mike Miller, Scott Lemons, Matei Tomas, Head Coach Rod Anselene, and Quinn Sharrow. Photo Submitted By FS Athletic Dept.



Women's Tennis-Head Coach Ken Miller, Kendra Kelps, Kayla Kurczak, Megan Fitzwater, Miranda Zickefoose, Sierra Hendershot, Laura Evert, Lindsay Edwards, and Assistant Coach Janet Floyd. Photo Submitted By FS

Athletic Dept.

ORGan7Za770m5

By: Rachel Skub



Many sororities and fraternities battle for he bell at early hours.

Photo By Rachel Skubis



tudent organizations are joined by common sterests and enjoyable activities. 'hoto By Rachel Skubis

Fairmont State Student Organizations unite students with mutual interests, giving them recreation, recognition, and community service. Most of the activities that take place on campus are sponsored or co-sponsored by the many organizations offered through FSU and Pierpont Community and Technical College. These communal projects and events bridge the gaps between majors, cultures, ages, and other inevitable divisions that come with a very diverse and widespread campus.

The West Virginia Folklife Center and the Phi Alpha Theta Student History Honorary sponsored a Miners Appreciation Film Fest on December 4, 2006. In the area of fine arts, the Fairmont State Wind Ensemble and Stage Band and the Percussion and African Ensembles held fall concerts. The FSU Masquers presented "A Sense of Place: An Old Time Radio Variety Show" in February and early March and Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" in mid-April. The Collegiate Singers went on tour to Toronto, Canada in the spring.

The Fairmont State ballroom dancing team competed in the 2006 National Collegiate DanceSport Championships in the Greater Columbus Convention Center on November 18-19 and at Chatham College on April 13-15. Fairmont State Student Government and the Collegiate Singers co-sponsored a Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 4.

The Phi Alpha Theta History Honorary sponsored a lecture by Clifford Vankirk, a social science education major. The FSU Intercollegiate Debate Team competed in tournaments at Ohio University and Ohio State University. By raising 803 dollars, sorority Delta Xi Omicron beat 16 other campus organizations in a Fairmont State Student Government competition to benefit the domestic violence shelter operated by HOPE, Inc.

The FSU Students in Free Enterprise Team competed for cash prizes at the Cleveland, Ohio, SIFE USA Regional Competition on March 28. FSU American Society of Civil Engineers Student Club won the ASCE Regional Virginia's Conference Concrete Canoe Competition in Lexington, Virginia.

For more information, students can visit the Fairmont State Homepage at the following web address: http://www.fairmontstate.edu/studentlife.



Alpha Eta Rho (International Professional College Aviation Fraternity)

Front Row: Brett Fabian, Andrew Lau, Gavin Miller, and Frank Muldoon. Second Row: Gerod Green,
Andrew Rouse, Nick Hartsell, Zach Martin, Ian Hanobeck, Clint Ransom, and Justin Webb.



Alpha Phi Sigma (National Criminal Justice Honor Society) Justin Judy, Philip Wagner, Susan Moore, Alicia Fretwell, Angela Jones, Angel Poling, Robert Maldonado, Johnnette Jasper, Ryan Morris, and Dr. Deanna Shields.

Members not pictured: Dedra Hash, Courtney Phillips, Laura Schmidle, Katie Golden, Courtney Gregory, Sam Blankenship, and Kasaundra Sypolt.



Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority Front Row: Danielle Hammond, Jessica Heiney, Nicki Stanley, and Kaitlyn Thorn. Second Row: Joann Harney (Treasurer), Megan Mellott (President), Collyn Wright (Secretary), Sarah Britcher (Recruitment Director), Misty Fry (Women's Panhellenhic), Whitney Burkhart, and Gina Binotto (New Member Educator). Third Row: Ashton Michael, Mackenzie Griffith, Maria Delligatti (Vice President), Abby Mellott, Erin Pomraning, Autumn Darhower, and Mallory Hamilton.



American Institute of Architecture Students Front Row: Kendra Kelps, Brandi Smith, Stacey Bollinger, Lauren Smith, Kera Cherrey, and Kara Taylor. Second Row: Marsha Benson, Dustin Noe, Patrick McCord, Aundrae Sykes, Meghann Gregory, and Mark Shirley. Third Row: Professor Philip Freeman, Orin Kincade, Ashley Moore, Joel Swisher, Troy Smith, Carlton Handley, Jon Lee, David McCarty, Brian Robinson, Prof Kirk Morphew, and Matt Riffle.



American Society of Interior Designers Jennifer Miller (President), Robbin King (Secretary), Julie Naumann (Vice President), and Kera Cherrey (Treasurer).



Ballroom Dance Club Front Row: Sarah Grumblatt, Andrea Burnett, Jacqueline Albright, and Mariko Tsuruta. Second Row: Buddy Robrecht, Darren Freme, and Raymond Bezjak. Third Row: Willa Brown, Sierra Gard, and Kate Pawich.



Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship



Columns Staff Kristen Woods (Managing Editor), Luke Shamblin (Staff Writer), Rachel Skubis (Staff Writer), Jennifer Okin (Layout Design), Lisa Respole (Staff Writer), and Sarah Mauller (Columns Editor). **Members not pictured**: Molly Born (Staff Writer) and Kelli Gore (Sports).



Delta Zeta Sorority First Row: Amanda Shreves, Beth Reynolds, Amanda Jo Paul, Brandi Haines, Whitney Richardson, and Lisa Respole. Second Row: Precious Counsil, Talia Stenger, Erin Greathouse, Casey Kitchen, Lana Boyce, Ally Chichester, Kristen Frodelius, Stephanie Glotfelty, and Kristy Efaw. Third Row: Kelli Workman Phillips, Kristen DeSantis, Heather Smith, Lesley Cunningham, Sarah Delbert, Michelle Nabers, Bri Setlak, and Meagan Bradfield.



Kappa Pi (International Honorary Art Fraternity) Front Row: Holly Groves and Jessica Allen. Second Row: Miles Holbert, Jeff Greenham (advisor), Destiny Ferrell, and Jennifer Boggess (advisor).



Phi Epsilon Kappa (Physical Education/Health Honors Organization) Kyle Miller, Brandy Baileys, Stephanie Utt, Mike Donato (back), Jenna Facemire, Matt Barberio (back), Lisa Rowland, and Patrick Massey (back).

Members not pictured: Colleen Grierson, Amy Davis, and Sarah Quimby.



Inter-Panhellenic Council First Row: Gina Binotto, Kayleigh Lynch, Amanda Jo Paul, Erin Greathouse, and Rophe Woods. Top Row: JJ Brown, Brian Hobbs, Alex Leib, and Oscar Aguilera.



Mound Staff Rachel Skubis (Editor), Ally Chichester (Writer), Eric Braham (Layout and Design), and Sarah Mauller (Writer).



Sigma Tau Delta (National English Honor Society) Beth Reynolds, Donnie Tucker, Jill Wharton, Amie Kirk, Brionna Harvey, Jennifer Cogar (Vice President), Jared St. Martin Brown, Adam Bowers (President), Bill Stalnaker, Ben Fisher, Chris Underwood, and Rachel Skubis.



Students in Free Enterpirse Dr. Jack Kirby, Precious Counsil, Ka-Fung-Hui, Rebecca Weaver, Nathan Erickson, Emily Thomas, Zachary Fay, Christopher Skoloski, Michelle Robertson, Kara Woods, Rebecca Johnson, and Petrina Supler.



Tau Beta Iota Fraternity First Row: Travis Markley, Sean Reed, Eric Burnell, Jeff Bonoventura, Clint Shipman, JJ Brown, Chris Lantz, Eric Kerns, Travis Iral Weston, and Eric Lu. Second Row: Matt Garrett, James Mou, Nate Kerns, Jake Burkhart, Benji Giffin, Billy Murphy, Matt Armel, Mike Prutsok, Adam Rouse, Kyle Hamrick, and Brandon Fisher.

Members not pictured: Jeremy Shackelford, Ben Corley, Brice Fisher, Eric Moore, and Lucien Knights.

FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES

For contact information, visit http://www.fairmontstate.edu/SO/SocialFratsSoroitiesListing.asp.

Inter-Panhellenic Council

Advisor: Tim Rice

Inter-Fraternity Council

Advisor: Tim Rice

Women's Panhellenic Council

Advisor: Tina Mascaro

Alpha Eta Rho

Advisor: Brad Gilbert

Alpha Sigma Tau

Advisor: Bob Mild

Delta Xi Omicron (local)

Advisor: Sue Kelley

Delta Zeta

Advisor: Teresa Palmer

Sigma Sigma Sigma

Advisor: Harmony Hutchinson

Phi Sigma Phi

Advisor: Porter Stiles

Sigma Tau Gamma

Advisor: Les Boggess

Tau Beta Iota (local)

Advisor: Greg Hinton

Tau Kappa Epsilon

Advisor: Rob Lemon

Theta Xi

Advisor: Father Jude Molnar

HONOR SOCIETIES

For contact information, visit http://www.fairmontstate.edu/SO/HonorSocietiesListing.asp.

Alpha Phi Sigma (Criminal Justice)

Advisor: Dr. Deanna Shields

Alpha Psi Omega (Dramatics)

Advisor: Dr. John O'Connor

Beta Beta Beta (Biology)

Advisor: Dr. Mark Flood

Delta Sigma Rho (Forensics)

Advisor: Kim Korcsmaros

Epsilon Pi Tau (Technology)

Advisor: Dr. Gerald Bacza

Family and Consumer Science Honor Society

Advisor: Dr. Judith Kreutzer

Kappa Delta Pi (Education)

Advisor: Dr. Gwen Jones

Kappa Pi (Art)

Advisor: Jennifer Boggess

Nursing Honorary

Advisor: Mary Meighen

Phi Alpha Theta (History)

Advisor: Dr. Gerald Bobango

Phi Theta Kappa (Two-Year College)

Advisor: Richard McCormick

Pi Gamma Mu (Social Science)

Advisor: Charles A. Shields

Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science)

Advisor: Dr. Patricia Ryan

Psi Chi (Psychology)

Advisor: Clarence Rohrbaugh

Sigma Alpha Iota (Music)

Advisor: Dr. Mary-Lynne Bennett

Sigma Tau Delta (English)

Advisor: Dr. James Matthews

Society for Collegiate Journalists

Advisor: Kevin Smith

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

For contact information, visit http://www.fairmontstate.edu/SO/default.asp.

American Association of University Women

promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change

American Chemical Society Student Affiliates

Advisor: Dr. Andreas Baur encourages the advancement of chemistry

American Choral Directors Association

Advisor: Dr. Jeffrey Poland fosters and promotes choral singing

American Institute of Architecture Students

Advisor: Dr. Philip Freeman organizes architecture students to advance the science and art of architecture

American Sign Language/Deaf Culture Club

Advisor: Ruby Losh educates the hearing community about deaf culture and their language

American Society of Civil Engineers

Advisor: Tia M. Richardson encourages its members to study civil engineering and advances the profession

American Society of Interior Designers

Advisor: Dr. Beth Newcome advances the interior design profession

American Society of Mechanical Engineers

Advisor: Merle Thomas advances the theory and practice of mechanical engineering

American Society of Safety Engineers

Advisor: Melissa Abbot promotes the advancement of the safety profession

Ballroom Dancing Club

Advisor: Dr. Michael Fulda promotes interest in ballroom dancing

Baptist Campus Ministry

Advisor: Joyce Rose organizes, promote and supports the American Baptist Campus Ministry through FSU students

Bisexual Gay & Lesbian Students & Friends

Advisor: Elizabeth Savage promotes the welfare of and services for bisexual, gay and lesbian individuals, as well as any minorities

Black Student Union

Advisor: Persis Bates promotes the study of Black Culture

Campus Light Ministries

Advisor: Dr. Tony Morris helps others find incentives for spiritual growth

Chi Alpha Campus Ministry

Advisor: Dr. Steve Haynes promotes a balanced community of worship, discipleship, and witness

College Republicans

Advisor: Dr. George Sprowls pursues the ideas of liberty, justice, and freedom regardless of race, religion or sex

Collegiate Singers

Advisor: Dr. Jeffrey Poland fosters and promotes choral singing

Community & Technical EMS Association

Advisor: Robert Andrew promotes comradely among students with interest in EMS

Falcon Financial Group

Advisor: Dr. Rick Harvey

unites all of those with a common interest in finance

Family & Consumer Sciences Association

Advisor: Dr. Kreutzer

furthers the interests of home economics students

Forensic Science Club

encourages and promotes camaraderie between students who are interested in forensic science

Gamma Omicon Delta

Advisor: Sue Conrad

connects students with God

Health Information Technology Association

Advisor: Amy Cunningham

promotes further interest and understanding of the

field

Honors Association

Advisor: Dr. J. Robert Baker

assists in the governing of the Honors program

Increasing Our Faith

Advisor: Connie Moore

increases faith in God and knowledge of the Bible

Information Systems Student Organization

Advisor: Tracie Dodson

promotes interest in information systems

International Student Organization

Advisor: Geneva Hines

promotes intercultural communications and

relationships

Non-traditional Student Society

Advisor: Miwa Edwards

increases the awareness of Fairmont State

University's nontraditional students to the activities

on campus

Outdoor Adventure Club

Advisor: Dr. Tony Morris

enjoy the natural beauty of West Virginia and participate safely in various outdoor activities

Percussion Ensemble

Advisor: Matt Schoonmaker

provides students experience in all facets of

percussion

Phi Epsilon Kappa

Advisor: Kristi Kiefer

promotes and provides useful experiences for

members and professional growth

Political Science Association

Advisor: Dr. George Sprowls

provides the opportunity to become knowledgeable about political processes in a non-partisan manner

Residence Life Club

Advisor: Dan Gockley

provides a learning living environment for a diverse

student population

Rugby Football Club

Advisor: Dr. Tim Rice

teaches, promotes, and encourages the game of

Rugby Union Football in all its aspects

Society of Automotive Engineers

Advisor: Merle Thomas, Jr.

advances mobility technology to better serve

humanity

Spanish Club

Advisor: Gilberto Delgado

enhances language skills and explores Hispanic

Culture

Society for Human Resource Management

Advisor: Rosa P Cassell

acquaints students with the field of human resource

management and/or labor relations

Student Accountant Society

Advisor: Gary Bennett

fosters better campus relationships among the

accounting students

Student Athlete Advisory Committee

Advisor: Kristi Kiefer

provides insight on the student athlete experience at

Fairmont State

Student Behavioral Science Association

Advisor: Dr. Ann Shaver

promotes more communication among student and

faculty with psychology related fields

Student Government

Advisor: Laurie Johnston

regulates all matters pertaining to student life

Student Graphics Organization

unites students interested in graphic design, generates new interest in field, and helps students prepare for a career in graphic design

Student Historical Society

Advisor: Dr. Gerald Bobango advances the cause of history

Student Medical Laboratory Technology

Association

Advisor: Leslie Lovett

promotes further interest and understanding of the

field

Student Nurses Association

Advisor: Joyce Bates

promotes further interest in nursing

Student Veterinary Technician Association

Advisor: Sherri Grudi

contributes to the veterinary technician's education

Students In Free Enterprise

Advisor: Jack R. Kirby

promotes technology awareness and helps improve

technology literacy in our society

Students Taking Action In Nature's Defense

Advisor: Dr. Don Trisel

promotes a socially, ecologically, and economically sustainable WV through education and activities

Technology Education Collegiate Association

Advisor: Gary Bolyard

promotes technology awareness and improves

technology literacy in our society

Wesley Foundation

Advisor: Rev. Michael Waide

renders a Christian ministry to the campus

community

Young Democrats

Advisor: Dr. Craig White

pursues the ideas of liberty, justice, and freedom

regardless of race, religion, or sex

STUDENT UNION Whetstone editor Donnie Tucker speaks at the Whetstone Evening in the Wallman's Hall Tower Room. *Photo By Meredith Byrd*

The Black Student Union's poster was one of many that were displayed at the Activities Fair.

Photo By Jamie Shreve



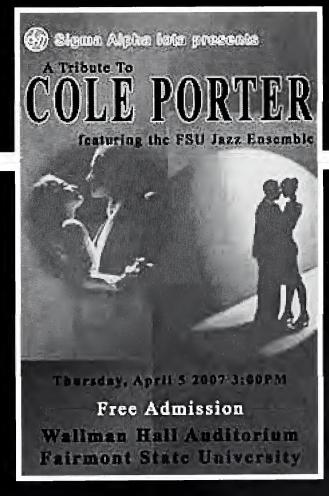
Or. Judy Byers lights the candle during the Sigma Fau Delta induction, with Dr. James Matthews, Adam Bowers, and Jennifer Cogar in the packground. *Photo By Rachel Skubis*



Sigma Sigma Sigma members Cindy Hickman and Kim Morris smile for the camera with Falcon spirit. *Photo By Kevin Funk*



A poster-design entry for the Sigma Alpha Iota's presentation of a Cole Porter Tribute was submitted to the Fine Arts Department. *Design By Eric Braham*



How Many Connections Do You Have? (Continued)



Name: Erin Dahlheimer Name: **Steve McElroy** Major/s: Nursing Major/s: Theatre Campus Organizations: None Campus Organizations: APO, **Masquers** Number of Years Attending Fairmont State: 1 Number of Years Attending Fairmont State: Too Many Fall or Spring Semester Credits: 16 Fall or Spring Semester Credits: **18** Number of People in Your Cell-Phone Directory Attending Fairmont State: 2 Number of People in Your Cell-Phone Directory Attending Fairmont State: **0** Number of Total People in Your Cell-Phone Directory: **23** Number of Total People in Your Cell-Phone Directory: **0** Number of Songs on Your MP3 or POD: N/A Number of Songs on Your MP3 or IPOD: like 300 Number of Jobs and Other Fairmont Number of Jobs and Other Fairmont State Students that Work with You: l job/0 FSU students State Students that Work with You: 1 job/3 FSU students Number of "Facebook Friends" from airmont State: 0 Number of "Facebook Friends" from Fairmont State: 145 Number of Total "Facebook Friends": 0 Number of Total "Facebook Friends": 205 **Number of Family Members Attending** airmont State: 0 Number of Family Members Attending 'arking Garage/Parking Lot/Walk to Fairmont State: 1 Campus: Parking Garage Parking Garage/Parking Lot/Walk to Campus: Parking Garage

Name: Duane Turner Name: Gina Binotto Major/s: Info Systems Major/s: Education Campus Organizations: Sigma Tau Campus Organizations: Alpha Sigma Tau Number of Years Attending Fairmont State: 5 Number of Years Attending Fairmont State: 2 Fall or Spring Semester Credits: 12 Fall or Spring Semester Credits: 17 Number of People in Your Cell-Phone **Directory Attending Fairmont State:** Number of People in Your Cell-Phone 119 Directory Attending Fairmont State: 60 Number of Total People in Your Cell-Number of Total People in Your Cell-Phone Directory: **307** Phone Directory: 157 Number of Songs on Your MP3 or Number of Songs on Your MP3 or IPOD: 0 IPOD: N/A Number of Jobs and Other Fairmont Number of Jobs and Other Fairmont State Students that Work with You: State Students that Work with You: 0 1 job/7 FSU students Number of "Facebook Friends" from Number of "Facebook Friends" from Fairmont State: 200 Fairmont State: 12 Number of Total "Facebook Friends": Number of Total "Facebook Friends": 400 268 Number of Family Members Attending Number of Family Members Attending Fairmont State: 0 Fairmont State: 1 Parking Garage/Parking Lot/Walk to Parking Garage/Parking Lot/Walk to Campus: Both Campus: Parking Garage

Name: Kristen Frodelius Name: Marquis Fuller Major/s: Fashion Design Major/s: Sports Management Campus Organizations: Delta Zeta Campus Organizations: Football Number of Years Attending Fairmont Number of Years Attending Fairmont State: 4 State: 1 Fall or Spring Semester Credits: 12 Fall or Spring Semester Credits: 16 Number of People in Your Cell-Phone Number of People in Your Cell-Phone Directory Attending Fairmont State: **86** Directory Attending Fairmont State: 45 Number of Total People in Your Cell-Number of Total People in Your Cell-Phone Directory: 206 Phone Directory: **238** Number of Songs on Your MP3 or Number of Songs on Your MP3 or IPOD: **700 IPOD: 55** Number of Jobs and Other Fairmont Number of Jobs and Other Fairmont State Students that Work with You: 0 State Students that Work with You: **0** Number of "Facebook Friends" from Number of "Facebook Friends" from Fairmont State: 233 Fairmont State: 98 Number of Total "Facebook Friends": Number of Total "Facebook Friends": 1100 574 Number of Family Members Attending Number of Family Members Attending Fairmont State: 1 Fairmont State: **0** Parking Garage/Parking Lot/Walk to Parking Garage/Parking Lot/Walk to Campus: Parking Lots Campus: Parking Lots

Name: Janel Bowers Name: Tara Ocheltree Major/s: Elementary Education Major/s: Undecided Campus Organizations: 0 Campus Organizations: 0 Number of Years Attending Fairmont Number of Years Attending Fairmont State: 1 State: 4 Fall or Spring Semester Credits: 18 Fall or Spring Semester Credits: 15 Number of People in Your Cell-Phone Number of People in Your Cell-Phone Directory Attending Fairmont State: 10 Directory Attending Fairmont State: 10 Number of Total People in Your Cell-Number of Total People in Your Cell-Phone Directory: 64 Phone Directory: **Over 100** Number of Songs on Your MP3 or Number of Songs on Your MP3 or IPOD: N/A IPOD: Over 100 Number of Jobs and Other Fairmont Number of Jobs and Other Fairmont State Students that Work with You: State Students that Work with You: 0 2 jobs/4 FSU students Number of "Facebook Friends" from Number of "Facebook Friends" from Fairmont State: 160 Some Fairmont State: 85 Number of Total "Facebook Friends": Number of Total "Facebook Friends": **Around 300** 463 Number of Family Members Attending Number of Family Members Attending Fairmont State: 0 Fairmont State: 0

Parking Garage/Parking Lot/Walk to

Campus: Don't have a car.

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Parking Garage/Parking Lot/Walk to

Campus: Garage

Name: Trista Thompson Name: Juatta Lyon Fueul Major/s: Sociology Major/s: Culinary Management Campus Organizations: None Yet Campus Organizations: N/A Number of Years Attending Fairmont Number of Years Attending Fairmont State: 2 State: 2 Fall or Spring Semester Credits: **12** Fall or Spring Semester Credits: **17** Number of People in Your Cell-Phone Number of People in Your Cell-Phone **Directory Attending Fairmont State:** Directory Attending Fairmont State: 5 15-20 Number of Total People in Your Cell-Phone Directory: 25 Number of Total People in Your Cell-Phone Directory: **Over 50** Number of Songs on Your MP3 or IPOD: Do not have one. Number of Songs on Your MP3 or IPOD: N/A Number of Jobs and Other Fairmont State Students that Work with You: Number of Jobs and Other Fairmont 2jobs/6 FSU students State Students that Work with You: 1 job/4 FSU students Number of "Facebook Friends" from Fairmont State: 0 Number of "Facebook Friends" from Fairmont State: 50-75 Number of Total "Facebook Friends": **0** Number of Total "Facebook Friends": Number of Family Members Attending Way too many! Fairmont State: I don't claim Number of Family Members Attending them. Fairmont State: 3 Parking Garage/Parking Lot/Walk to

Parking Garage/Parking Lot/Walk to

Campus: Parking Garage

Campus: **Both**

Name: Frank Muldoon Name: **Kera Cherrey** Major/s: Interior Design Major/s: N/A Campus Organizations: Alpha Eta Campus Organizations: ASID, **Honors Association, New Rho, Honors Program Student Orientation** Number of Years Attending Fairmont State: 4 Number of Years Attending Fairmont State: 4 Fall or Spring Semester Credits: 18 Fall or Spring Semester Credits: 24 Number of People in Your Cell-Phone Directory Attending Fairmont State: 16 Number of People in Your Cell-Phone Directory Attending Fairmont State: 79 Number of Total People in Your Cell-Phone Directory: 41 Number of Total People in Your Cell-Phone Directory: 175 Number of Songs on Your MP3 or IPOD: 150 Number of Songs on Your MP3 or IPOD: N/A Number of Jobs and Other Fairmont State Students that Work with You: Number of Jobs and Other Fairmont 2 jobs/3 FSU students State Students that Work with You: 2 jobs/0 FSU students Number of "Facebook Friends" from Number of "Facebook Friends" from Fairmont State: 85 Fairmont State: 0 Number of Total "Facebook Friends": 171 Number of Total "Facebook Friends": **0** Number of Family Members Attending Number of Family Members Attending Fairmont State: 0 Fairmont State: 0 Parking Garage/Parking Lot/Walk to Parking Garage/Parking Lot/Walk to Campus: Neither, I walk Campus: Equal

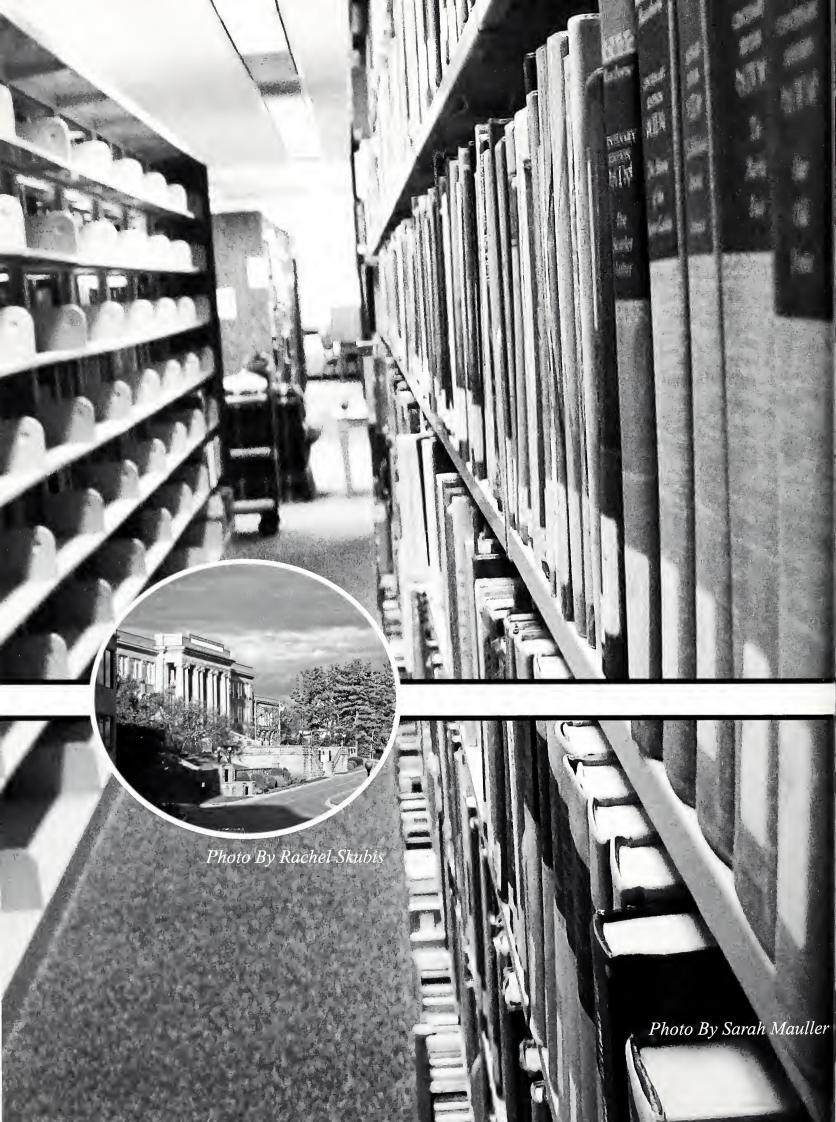


Fairmont State experiences physical growth in and out of its facilities. *Photo By Sarah Mauller*

Dirt overtakes the area between Jaynes Hall and the Falcon Center, changing to a neat lawn by the end of the spring semester.

Photo By Sarah Mauller





CONNECTED TO A CLOSE

By: Rachel Skubis

Although the fall, spring, and summer semesters are separated by time and routine, they are also connected in multiple aspects. Courses taken one semester indefinitely affect knowledge and success in upcoming courses. Associations through classes, student organizations, and occupations increase in time and may span beyond previous margins. Within the primary academic connection that joins us at Fairmont State University and Pierpont Community and Technical College, there are various

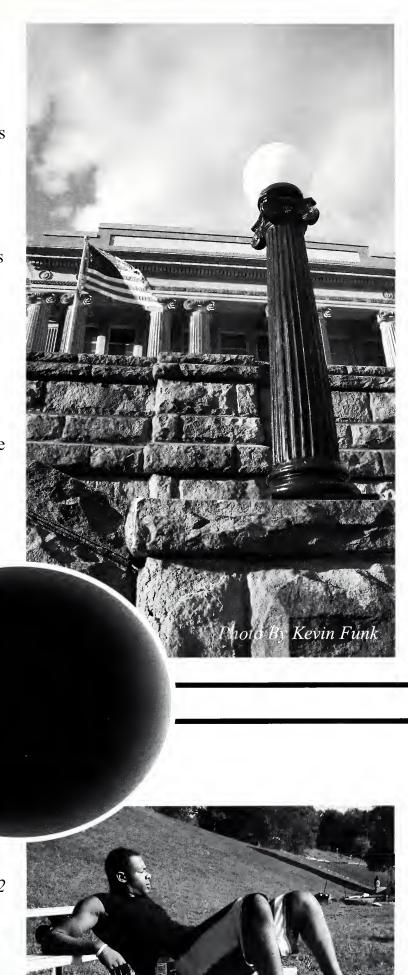
our personal and social lives are linked and transformed.

departments and interests that build

ever-growing networks where

continued on page 152

Saint Clair Harris sits back on the bleachers in the practice field during an intramurals flag-football game. *Photo By Rachel Skubis*



During the 2006-2007 school year, the facilities and appearance of campus witnessed continuous construction to add more functionality and campus unity. Additional meeting places helped faculty, staff members, and students to hold ceremonies, conferences, receptions, and other activities. More parking places added convenience for college commuters. Expanded computer labs enabled various online applications, such as AIM, email, Facebook, and WebCT, and opened the lines of communication for various purposes. Fairmont State was technological savvy and student-oriented.

As a community, we are joined in good and bad times. College students united in condolence for the victims of the April 16th Virginia Tech massacre, the worst school shooting in US history. Student government, religious groups, and other organizations planned and participated in community service projects, donating money and various items to charitable causes. Reaching out helping hands to the wider world, we discover a sense of harmony that decreases misfortune and chaos.

Experiencing transitions around us and within us, sections of our lives inevitably overlap and influence a chain of events that impact our lifetime. We are connected. We are Fairmont State University and Pierpont Community and Technical College. We are Falcons, taking flight and defying gravity as we now know it.



The campus is a late winter wonderland during the mid-spring semester. *Photo By Mound Staff*

Many flowers are planted to add to the campus' beauty at the beginning of summer. *Photo By Rachel Skubis*

The Falcon Center is a glowing architectural sight at night.

Photo By Sarah Mauller



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Opies of the 2007 *Mound*, volume 97 were printed by Herff Jones Yearbooks, Charlotte plant, 9601 Monroe Road, Charlotte, NC 28270. Beth Slusser served as Herff Jones Representative and Frankie Lytle served as Herff Jones Customer Service Adviser.

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The 2007 Mound cover was created at the Herff Jones Design Clinic in the fall of 2006 by Rachel Skubis with the help of Kevin Z. Smith, Beth Slusser, and Herff Jones graphic artist Burton Wilkins.

The editorial content does not necessarily reflect the views of Fairmont State, its administrators, faculty or the *Mound* staff.

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The *Mound* office is located in 301 Jaynes Hall, and the staff can be contacted at 304-367-4833.

Editor's Special Remarks:

The 2006-2007 academic year for the *Mound* began in the fall with a staff of five and continued in the spring with volunteers. When special methods and student-teaching took up most of my time, I was unable to be on campus, let alone sufficiently produce a publication. Post-graduation responsibility quickly surfaced, but the experience was definitely worth it.

I send out my highest gratitude to Kevin and Beth for their gracious assistance and unfailing confidence in this publication (and me!). Kevin's dependability and humor and Beth's constant reassurance meant a great deal to me. I feel honored to have worked with them both.

Eric kept me updated throughout the spring semester and volunteered his first part of summer to help complete this impossible one-person task. Anytime I

was in the Jaynes Lab working on the yearbook, he was right by my side. I am extremely grateful for his awardwinning excellence in design as well as his dedication and reliability.

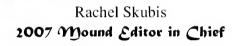
Fall semester staff members Meredith Byrd, Sarah Mauller, and Jamie Shreve were extremely helpful. They always volunteered to attend events and submitted accurate and well-written stories. Sarah's brilliant contributions are appreciated.

I am also very thankful for all volunteers for their stories, especially Ally Chichester, Jaimie Mayhorn, and Kristen Vipperman. They were always an email away.

The theme of this book went far beyond the page and into many phone calls, Facebook messages, and emails-connections that enabled this volume of the *Mound* to be fit for print.

Fairmont State University Faculty, Staff, and Students-Thank you for your feedback and participation. I was happy to serve as your 2007 *Mound* editor.

301 Jaynes Hall holds a permanent place in my heart! Thank you for the wonderful memories.



Eric Braham

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2007 YYound Adviser

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Ally Chichester
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